

NOTES FROM WOODSONG

By William Samuel

2+2= REALITY

By
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There is a simple and gentle Light within these pages that will change your life and make all things new. It can! It will! But it is a message only the Heart can find. Search with the Heart and you will find it.

With honest and straightforward simplicity, I am here to tell you that you can never be free of personal trials and tribulations until you make your own discovery of Reality, God. You will never find more than the most temporal, ephemeral happiness until you make a personal discovery of God, Isness—until you get off your soft sofa and actually *make* your own determination of Reality, of Truth, of Fact. You will never permanently rid yourself of the grind and grate in the pit of the stomach nor find yourself free of that feeling of impending doom until you make your own, individual determination of exactly what God is to you!

Just what does the term 'God' mean to *you*, Reader? Prior conditioning need not deter you nor anyone else from making this personal determination. Often the mere mention of God brings the disillusioned dismissal, "Here's another of those God messages. I already know what it's going to say." Similarly, the highly educated and sophisticated slam mental doors, having already erected countless defenses to protect their old and cherished opinions as to what God is. Yet, both those who disregard and those who build the most elaborate defenses are usually those suffering the greatest personal agonies. To plunk mental fingers into mental ears at the mere mention of God cannot alter Truth, but it does a superb job of gluing one to unnecessary fears, frustrations and anxieties.

Let me say it another way: If you have tried everything else and are still periodically miserable, if you still contend with one problem after another, if you still have not yet solved the problem of fear and increasing pressure, and if you are really ready to stop suffering, it is time to do yourself a favor. Start now, this minute, to begin your *own* determination of what God, Reality, Truth is. One can never be happy nor self-satisfied until he does. One can never be free of trials and tribulations until he does. One can have no permanent sense of health or wealth until he does. No one will ever be free of personal fear or insecurity until he makes a determination for himself of just what God is to him.

Who am I; who are you? Why are we here? What is the purpose of life? Who or what is God? What is absolute reality?

Reality is the most *real* thing in a person's life. The term, the very word itself, should, therefore, mean something real and tangible to one—more so than any other word. Obviously one's determination of Reality embraces much more than words; it includes the infinity of non-verbal

feelings, sense perceptions and intuitive knowings. The word itself, then, brings to mind this vast meaning that is considerably greater than a mere definition. Thus, the academic sockdolager stating it is not possible to define infinite God by means of finite words becomes little more than a lame excuse to go on sleeping, to make no personal effort to define Reality at all.

Reader, what do *you* know about Reality? Do you know what is real and what is not? Can you separate fact from fiction? Can you answer Pilate's old question, "What is truth?" Can you define God? These terms must mean something *specific* to you, Something concrete and understandable that expands as the light of understanding grows brighter.

Well, the time has come to stop fooling around. It's time to get the answer—not from someone else, not someone else's *version* of the answer—your *own* answer, arrived at yourself from the depth of YOUR very own being.

Here and now, you can begin this personal effort to determine just what Fact, Principle, Reality, Truth *ITSELF* is. In spite of *all* that mankind has been told for centuries, this is not an impossible task. It is not hard to do. It is not even an uphill struggle. It is the happiest thing you will ever undertake. As one divests himself of former beliefs and opinions and begins to arrive at his very own concept of God, through his own effort, from out the wisdom of his own heart, then God, Reality, Truth reveals Itself to that one—just as it has been said, "Seek and ye shall find."

Everyone, every single person on this earth can arrive at a precise understanding of God! How can this be so? Because God is uncomplicated and easily understood! When one lets go all the things *they* say *about* God and stops accepting them blindly as his own beliefs, God becomes remarkably apparent. And why not? What sort of God would it be that withholds Himself from all those who have not suffered enough, studied hard enough, searched diligently enough or prayed earnestly enough in just the right way? What sort of God would it be who absents Himself from those who have not been baptized in this or that fashion, or have not joined this organization or that one? What sort of Love would it be that withholds itself from half the population of the world because it is not Christian or Muslim, because it is not acquainted with this or that arcane, unprofaned wisdom; what sort of Love withholds itself from those not subscribing to this or that set of dogmas and beliefs, not honoring this or that ritual and that ceremony?

Well, be assured, God does not withhold Himself from aught. God is right here, right now, closer than fingers and toes, closer than breathing. There is no distance nor separation between oneself and God, mentally or otherwise. You will find that God is all that *is* here, and "They shall all know me from the least of them to the greatest, saith the Lord."

God's simplicity is astounding. It is this very simplicity that the pompous intellect of mankind can neither see nor understand while struggling through its jungle of erudite beliefs.

Let the beliefs go. Let what "they say" go. Drop all the old personal opinions no matter how near and dear they seem. You *start anew*, turning *within* to the heart. Then when you arrive at your *own* meaning of God, you happily find you are also discovering your own *real* Identity and its childlike simplicity.

This is not a slow process of spiritual refinement over a hot fire of personal ordeals. You do not have to wade through thousands of volumes of ancient and occult lore, to join various and sundry organizations or practice their precepts with fanatical diligence. No need to spend years doing good deeds, here a little, there a little. You might very well DO some of these things; good works are not disparaged here. But you do them, ultimately, because you enjoy them and want to—indeed, because you cannot keep from it—not because some special favor is supposed to accrue from doing them, and not because you are afraid of what might happen if you do not.

One simply does not have to delay his awakening from agony. He does not have to “put off the old man” bit by bit or “die to the self” a little every day or laboriously educate himself. One does not have to delay for any reason at all. He may drop the “old man” with all his trials and tribulations *here and now* if he chooses and immediately experience a joy and tranquillity beyond belief—all of this as easily and quickly as awakening from a daydream.

Reader, how easily can *you* withdraw from your own mental fantasy in a land of make-believe? Who snaps *you* out of your wool-gathering but *you yourself*?

When one begins to answer these questions for himself, extraordinary things start happening in his experience. Trials and tribulations slip away, one after the other. Even the most persistent pressures lose their power to disturb. One finds oneself seeing old concepts in a new and lovelier light. Suddenly, health, wealth, and happiness appear where they seemed absent before. Freedom and tranquillity blossom forth in business; love permeates every nook and cranny of experience; untoward conditions of every kind vanish like the morning mist—all because you have begun a personal determination of exactly what Truth means to you.

But let me pause a moment, lest this be misleading. *The joyful occurrences in one's experience are not the GOALS at all.* They are the “added things” that come from a personal determination of what God is—and they all have to do with Reality, with one's *real Identity*, with *who*, and *what* God is, with who and what “I” am. Answer the question “What is Truth?” for yourself; let the attention remain here, and then, as the answer begins to occur, you will enjoy the seeming changes that take place in your day to day living quite as something “extra,” as “signs following”—yet not half so wonderful as the recognition of your honest Identity.

ABOUT AGNOSTICISM

Recently I met a young man who called himself an agnostic. He said, “I am completely disinterested in God. I have no proof that a God exists, and the idea of some super-Being watching over me and the world is somehow rather ludicrous in light of the world situation. Besides that,” he continued, “the blatant hypocrisy of 'religious men' is enough to turn my stomach.”

This statement rather sums up the opinions of many frustrated people, young and old alike.

“And another thing,” he added, “how can anything ever be understood when even the oldest religious leaders, with years of study behind them, are at loggerheads with one another and apparently unable to solve the world's problems? All these things suggest to me that God is the invention of frustrated people wishing for something above and beyond themselves to solve all their problems.”

Many hold these ideas in this day and time. The ranks of the disillusioned are growing in number, and they come *especially* from the disenchanting *within* the religious organizations of the world. People are wondering increasingly about the correctness of their particular brands of religion. Old ideas once accepted as fact seem foolish and superstitious in light of the world's new technological dimension. The break with old theological concepts seems, to these people, to be a break with God. The arguments against old practices become their arguments against the *existence* of what they term 'God'.

It must be pointed out that these are not valid arguments against the existence of God but are, rather, arguments *against old concepts* of God, old ideas *about* God and old *practices* that pervade all organized religions today.

I am yet to meet an agnostic or atheist who cannot accept the existence and presence of God once we agree on just what *Reality* is. Usually, atheists deny and agnostics doubt the actuality of God as *they* understand and define God. They are quite right, because God *as they define Him* could not possibly exist. But God *as God is*, is neither doubted nor denied by a single man on this earth and never has been. God, as God is, is accepted without question, even without resistance, by everyone because God is the very basis of being, the fact of real existence. Why, God is Life *itself*. Show me an atheist who will deny he is alive!

The doubters and deniers are invariably throwing rocks at their own misconceptions of God, at the usual definitions of God, or at the generally accepted idea of what God can do. I am quick to agree that the popular *idea* of God is incorrect and that such a God does not exist—and never has. But God, as God *is*, *does* exist as a very present Reality and as the undeniable basis of Existence. Truth, Reality, Fact exists. This is all that really *does* exist right here, right now.

The agnostic is not questioning *Fact*; he is questioning a misstatement *about* Fact. The misstatement has nothing to do with Fact at all, just as the incorrect statement 2 plus 2 is 5 has nothing to do with the fact of arithmetic. A man is blind who breaks with *Fact itself* and doubts its existence just because an individual or an organization makes a misstatement in the *name* of Fact.

You no longer need be concerned with the many misstatements of others. You can determine what Fact is to yourself and *stay there*. As you do this you find yourself less concerned about what is *not* Fact and much more concerned with the Infinite Fact of Perfect Being ITSELF.

ABOUT SCIENCE AND RELIGION

Much has been said about the incompatibility of science and religion. While there may often be a difference between science and the beliefs about God as they are professed by the many human organizations, there is no argument between God *as God is* and anything. Absolute Reality is the basis for the existence of 'things'—and science is the study of 'things'. Science now remarkably indicates the holistic singleness and absolute perfection of existence. Scientists are finally discovering the truths that some philosophies have expounded for thousands of years. This lag exists simply because science starts with the appearance of 'things' and works *back* to the reality which is their basis. The scientist is somewhat like a mathematician who starts with a group of numbers on a piece of paper. While they are only numbers at first, the astute mathematician eventually comes to understand the underlying perfect principle which the numbers are manifestations of. Obviously, the fastest discoveries concerning numbers are made by those who start *first* with the principle *itself*. Knowledge of the principle is automatic knowledge of the numbers, which exist only to manifest the principle.

In this so-called human experience, those who concern themselves with reality as reality *is* find themselves with a magnificently all-embracing knowledge of 'things'. On the other hand, starting with the multitude of 'things', one can hope for only a smattering of knowledge in a few fields of human concern. Commencing with the Principle of all Being and *living out from there*, one finds oneself with knowledge basic to every 'thing' in *all* fields of human endeavor he needs to know about. *This* knowledge comes without years of study in the universities and without pondering innumerable tomes of human erudition.

History is filled with instances of those who almost overnight acquired the wisdom and perspicacity their contemporaries spent years struggling for.

“Jesus went up into the temple and taught. And the Jews marveled, saying, How knoweth this man letters, having never learned? Jesus answered them and said, My doctrine IS not mine, but HIS that

sent me. If any man do His will he shall know of the doctrine....” (John 7:14-17). The American translation says: “How is it that this man knows his letters when he has never gone to school?”

In effect Jesus says knowledge does not come from the man and his attempts to arrive at truth. Rather it belongs to Truth (the Father) itself, which is the basis for all knowledge.

A young woman I know was concerned about her lack of formal education. Because her activities required close contact with people of extensive formal education and training, she frequently felt ill at ease and unable to converse as well as she thought was acceptable or expected.

She attended a lecture on Reality one evening during which time the little 'click' of honest understanding occurred (which always happens when the personal sense of self is lost sight of for a moment). Since that time, even her closest associates have been astonished at her new poise, grace and acumen. She cannot be fooled! She knows what IS and what ISN'T! She knows the Reality that is her *Identity*. Indeed she knows *who* and *what* she is! With this new understanding came, quite as an “added thing,” a joy of living that is an inspiration to see. Happiness follows her around like a puppy at her feet.

THE LUMP OF GOLD ILLUSTRATION

Still concerning science and its observation of 'things', the following is an interesting point to ponder. Suppose a lump of gold sits on the table before you. What do you see? Do you see gold *itself* or do you see a group of qualities and attributes which you have chosen to name 'gold'? You see 'yellow', but is there any gold in 'yellow'? No. 'Yellow' appears because gold *is*, and instead of there being any gold in 'yellow', 'yellow' is 'in' gold—or, more accurately, 'yellow' exists because gold itself is.

You also see the 'form', of gold, but there is no gold in 'form' either. 'Form' exists because gold is. So it is with all the qualities and attributes of the lump of gold on the table. What you see exists *because* something called gold *is*, but you do not see the basic, primordial isness *itself*. The qualities, characteristics, and attributes, in toto, are the grouping *named* gold—and they are all of gold you ever see and feel, measure and weigh—yet, they are not gold *itself*. They exist because gold itself is.

Using Biblical language, one might say that yellow “lives and moves and has its being” because gold is. Yellow will exist just as long as gold is; it is as perfect in every way as gold is in being gold. Gold might very well say, “Yellow is my color in which I am well pleased.” And gold, speaking as yellow, might say, “I and my basis in being are one, yet gold is greater than I.” Gold is the substance and the being of all the *qualities* and *attributes* of gold. “Gold doeth the works.” Gold is the 'value'.

So it is that awareness never sees primordial Being *itself* but sees qualities and attributes thereof. Likewise, one never sees the principle of arithmetic itself; rather, one sees the signs and symbols which are the principle made manifest, but are not the principle. There is no audible sound in the principle of music, yet we hear its melody through the application of its laws. The melody is not the principle itself, yet the melody exists because there is a principle. *Principle* is first as *all*. It is alone, single and pure.

Obviously, so long as science is concerned with the tangible 'thing', it is not concerned with Being *itself*, but only with measurable qualities and attributes of Being. But Being (Isness Itself) is the Reality, the Fact. It is the Alone One beside which there is none other, outside of which nothing exists, and because of which all its qualities and attributes have their being.

Everyone hopes to experience the absence of lack, limitation, pressure and fear. Everyone wants to experience an inner peace and tranquillity. There is a way to do it, dear reader, but there is only one door to enter by. It has all to do with determining what is Fact and what is fiction about oneself and Realty.

Vague ideas are not enough. It is innate and natural to want to know Fact from fiction, but for too long someone else's word has been considered Fact and the determination of ultimate Reality has been left to the physicists and philosophers.

For centuries mankind has been accepting mankind's answers to these questions. "My minister says this—my church says that—the Bible, as interpreted by someone *else*, says—the university says—they say..." The keystone question is, Who am I?—MY identity. Only that one who asks, "Who am I?" can answer it. No one can take someone else's answer. No one can take humanity's answer or theology's answer or philosophy's answer or the universities' answer alone. No one can take the churches' answer nor even the Bible's answer *alone*. One must arrive at this understanding for oneself from within oneself, from the 'secret place' within consciousness, from the Holy of Holies *within* one's own heart to which he alone has the key.

An old teacher from the Orient said to his students, "I can point to the moon and describe it to you in minute detail, but you must see it for yourself and look at it with your own eyes."

A teacher explains the alphabet but the student alone must comprehend it. For a time he learns mechanically and academically; then suddenly something clicks, something blossoms within and the student really knows the alphabet and what it is. It is an awakening, a breaking through, a deep within thing. Suddenly he knows it and he *knows* that he knows it. This awakening is very personal. When it happens one often says, "Why, that's crystal clear! Now I understand!"

The softer sound of poetry records such an illumination as follows:

***It is true! It is true!
I am the King!
I am!
—the very words I whispered
as tinkling cymbals from the slopes,
the same sounds I prattled
in pious self-righteousness
from the plateaus,
and droned as far-off dreams
along the pathways of desire—
ah, but spoken finally from
the Mountain that Childlikeness is.***

***It is so! I am the King!
I have heard of Thee
by the hearing of the ear
but now it is the Eye that seeth Thee,
oh Mind being Me!
This is MY Kingdom!
My Kingdom is ME!***

***My very Self I see,
all perfect infinity !***

Just as you learned the alphabet for yourself while a teacher only pointed the way, now you must discern and understand Reality for yourself; otherwise Truth, Reality, That which Is, will remain an academic, impersonal, abstruse and nebulous nothing to you; fact will forever remain just what a teacher, preacher, leader, church or book *tells you*. This is not enough to experience the peace of heart you hope for, nor see that perfection you are already.

Ask yourself this basic question right now: WHO AM I? Do you know? If you do, you *know* you know it and those around you know you know it too. Your experience is a tranquillity into which “nothing that worketh or maketh a lie ever enters.”

These words are intended to help one discover the heaven, the peace and tranquillity that are right here on earth—to find that all he could ever hope to have is right here, right now *where* he is—to know that it all has to do with determining what fiction is and what fact is concerning God and oneself.

THE ARITHMETIC ILLUSTRATION

There is a remarkable and magnificent similarity between what is termed God (Fact, Reality, Truth) and the principle of mathematics. Entire philosophic systems have been built around this likeness. Nearly 2,600 years ago the Greek philosopher and mathematician Pythagoras said that no concept more nearly approached Divinity than the principle of arithmetic. He pointed out that early every quality attributed to God was clearly expressed for all to see and understand in the simplest fact of arithmetic. Indeed, there is inherent in nature a revealed as well as a hidden harmony that reflects itself under the image of simple mathematical laws.

This similarity aids in understanding more clearly who and what God actually is. It paints a picture considerably more accurate than humanity's anthropomorphic concept. Reader, the arithmetic illustration will help you understand Absolute Reality in such a manner as to free you from all your troubles which are the seeming consequence of ignorance concerning Reality, God.

Examine these parallels. God is spiritual and not material. The principle of arithmetic is not material either. It cannot be seen or weighed on a scale. It cannot be felt or picked up by the hand.

God is omnipresent. You can understand the all-presence of God by contemplating the omnipresence of arithmetic. The principle of arithmetic is everywhere, isn't it? Two plus two is four right where you are this minute. So is everything concerning the principle of arithmetic. It is all at the top of Mount Everest and under the waters of the sea. If one were on the moon or at the bottom of a well, the principle of arithmetic would be there too. There is no place in the universe one can go to escape the principle. It is everywhere, every bit, perfectly present; nowhere is it the least bit absent.

I am sure you cannot imagine a place where addition is present but subtraction is absent or where everything is present except the number five or where two plus two is four and a half. Just as one can easily understand that the entire principle of arithmetic is perfectly present *everywhere*, so can one comprehend the omnipresent perfection of God.

Can you imagine a personal situation so frustrating that two plus two is four would not be *present* there? God, Reality, Fact, Principle is present too, no matter where you are nor how terrible the seeming situation.

“Whither shall I go from thy spirit? Or wither shall I flee from thy presence? If I ascend up into heaven, thou art there; if I make my bed in hell, behold, thou art there. If I take

the wings of the morning and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea; even there shall thy hand lead me, and thy right hand shall hold me.” (Psalms 139:7-10).

The arithmetic illustration is a *means* by which one is able to comprehend the continuing PRSENCE OF PERFECTION everywhere.

Consider a few more interesting parallels. Two plus two is four; this is a simple fact of arithmetic. Two plus two is four—not five, not three, not *four* and one-tenth, not three and ninety-nine one-hundredths. Two plus two is four and nothing else. The perfect fact exists. The principle proclaims only the *correct* statement that two plus two equals four. Any other answer, no matter how close, is not the correct answer nor is it contained within the principle and has no existence at all so far as this perfect principle is concerned.

Now can anyone doubt the accuracy of the principle? The schoolboy who finds a mistake on his school paper knows the mistake is not in the principle itself. He does not blame arithmetic for the error. The error exists *outside* the principle; yet the principle, when understood as it is, serves to correct the mis-worked problem. It is because principle exists as an immutably perfect *fact* that one is able to enjoy the facts it embodies.

Exactly so, Reality is what Reality *is*, absolute Truth. It is perfect, harmonious *Fact* in which there is nothing “that worketh or maketh a lie.” The schoolboy does not blame arithmetic for the errors on his paper, nor does the pianist blame Beethoven if she errs at the piano. So why blame God, the perfect Principle of Being, for the untoward events of life?

Consider Eternity in the light of arithmetic. When did the principle of arithmetic begin? Ponder this a moment and you will see clearly that it had no beginning at all. It has always existed as itself. It is as eternal as existence. And when will it end? What can happen to alter or destroy the principle of arithmetic? Does it get sick? Can it be maimed or crippled? Can it be killed in a war? Can an atom bomb destroy it? If this entire planet were blown to dust by hydrogen weapons, would the principle of arithmetic be affected at all? No. It would still exist untouched and perfect as ever. Two plus two would still be four. It would not be bent in the least.

In exactly this way the Principle of all existence (called God) is eternal, without beginning and without end, indestructible and continuous in being, no matter what the tortured meanderings of human activity. And since the principle continues, so continues *all* that principle is. As long as there is a principle of arithmetic, addition, subtraction and everything else arithmetic is, continues.

Well, God (Divine Principle, Reality) continues also; hence, *all* that God is continues. God, the substance and essence of all that is, remains perfect, unabated and untouched—everywhere present, nowhere absent.

Arithmetic is perfect, single, completeness. It is shown forth, made tangible or apparent, by the various signs and symbols of arithmetic.

Consider numbers for a minute. They exist because the principle of arithmetic exists. If there were no principle there would be no numbers. Because the principle is infinite, there is an infinity of numbers. We might say that numbers “live and move and have their being” in the principle of arithmetic because the principle is. The numbers are as eternal and immaterial, as indestructible and perfect as the principle. They *are* because principle *is* and for no other reason. So long as there is a principle, there will be the perfect signs and symbols that manifest it.

Even though there is an infinity of numbers, each of them is separate and distinct from the others. 3 is

3 and not 4. 4 is 4, distinctly individual and separate from 5. Yet the numbers in and of themselves are nothing. The *value* is the principle *itself*. The *importance* is principle itself. The primordial substance is principle, and the numbers are principle manifest as numbers. In or of themselves, numbers are just numbers being *principle's* self-evidence.

No number can exist outside the perfect principle. No number has a mind or will of its own to do what it chooses. No single number or group of them can be anything other than exactly what they are, *which is Principle manifest as that particular aspect of principle*. There is no life, truth, intelligence and substance in the numeral itself. The *principle* is all the life, truth, intelligence and substance there is. The numerals are what they are *already*, without having to do anything to get that way... without having to worry about sustenance and supply, food or money to stay that way. There is no separation at all between principle and numbers. *It is all principle being itself*.

Well, so what? How does this illustration relate practically to this daily experience? “What good does all this business do me?” you ask.

All the people, places and things one sees, including the body called mine, me, Bill, or Anne, are all, like numbers, *being* what they are (actually) because a principle of Reality exists—call it a Principle of Existence, Being, Consciousness, God or whatever you like. The name is not important, but the fact of *Being* is.

It is not possible to deny that Being is. The mere fact that one is aware of existing is obvious proof that something exists; so, if something, *anything*, exists, then there is Existence—there is Being—there is the *fact* of Being. Since there is something being, there is *reality* concerning what is being. *It is this Reality, this Principle of Being that is called God*.

Reality is God. God is *what is*. God is the Principle of *all* being. Now, (note the following carefully, for it is the very heart of this presentation) *awareness* is being aware of these words, hence *awareness* is *being*. Just as God is the principle of all being, even so God is the principle of *this* very awareness aware of these words, right here, right now—*this very awareness* called Bill, Rachel, John or Betty.

Consider Awareness at this very instant. This same Awareness that reads these words may also look about and see a table or a chair, a bouquet there, or a little boy. If might look across the way and see a tree, a mountain, a star or a galaxy. Indeed, this Awareness, right here, right now, just might look up and see the Universe! Now I ask you, have you ever been separate from this Awareness? No indeed. Everything you see, have ever seen or ever will see comes as this very Awareness that *sees* these words. Is this not so? Why, this Awareness is life itself. When one says, “I am alive,” does he not mean, “I am aware”?

Reader, do you see that you live forever alone with this Awareness? Have you ever been *outside* this Awareness? Every sight you have ever seen, every sound you have ever heard, every touch, every fragrance, every thought has always come to you as *this* awareness that is aware *here and now*. You have never seen a sight but your *own* sight which Awareness indicates is a book or a boy or a little blue flower. You have never heard a sound but your very own Awareness—and (listen carefully) you *alone* have decided for yourself whether you liked it or did not like it, whether it was good or evil. Indeed, you have never judged a thing 'out there' at all. You have been sitting in judgment of this total, all-inclusive *alone* and *only* Awareness which is your life itself.

No, you have never been *outside* Awareness at all. The book, the bouquet, the tree, the soaring swallow are within this Awareness, not outside it. Just as the principle of arithmetic is the power, importance, and substance of all the numbers, exactly so this very awareness is the common

denominator, the substance of all it perceives.

The day will soon come when this Fact of Being smites all mankind with its beauty and truth. The perception of this single, simple Truth leaves one never again at the mercy of 'external' things. The objects of perception are seen and clearly understood to live and move and have their being, not as a power or importance of themselves—not as something out there—but as PRINCIPLE, REALITY, LIFE, BEING, GOD ITSELF *manifest as* what is seen. This recognition gives the glory to God where it rightfully belongs.

The oneness and allness of God is self-evidently the fact of this Awareness which has forever been *alone* and *All* to everyone. Yes, the key is the singleness and all-inclusiveness of this very Awareness. *This* Awareness of existence, that is right here, right now, is divine! It is God's Awareness, not 'mine'.

A man fraught with fear and consternation came to the author with a terrible tale of tribulation. He wanted someone to do something about all his troubles. After a few moments of simple, light-hearted conversation relative to the Reality that is rather than the sorrow that seems, the man said, "I see! I understand! God is *all* that is here. God is this very Awareness I am."

He left and fearlessly set about doing all that was necessary to appear happy and prosperous. Many months later he told me that nothing had upset his equanimity since the day of that conversation.

The tangible 'universe' is the total of the objects of perception, and they are all perceived within this Awareness. One of these objects is this body called 'me' and 'mine'. Just who is this 'me'? This body is no more than any other object of perception within Infinite Awareness, yet the claim is that this particular body called 'me' *contains* Awareness *within* it. Is this not what mankind believes? "I am aware," he says. "I have a mind of my own that is aware. This is *my* awareness and I want it to show me abundant dollars, happiness, or something else."

This 'me' who *contains* awareness is an impossible impostor and a liar from the beginning. It is no more possible to imprison the Divine Awareness of Infinite Being and confine it within an object of its perception than it is possible to confine the alphabet to the letter A or jam the infinity of arithmetic into one number. All there is to 'mankind', to the old man who needs to be put off, is the *belief* that this Awareness here and now reading these words is confined *within* a body—that is beholden to a body—that it is the servant of a body—that it is the function of the body's brain or a personal mind.

To accept such a state of affairs as fact is the cause of mankind's troubles. It is like attempting to look at Infinity through a knot-hole, like looking at the infinity of arithmetic through a single number called 'me'. To accept such a state of affairs as fact would seemingly reverse Reality; it makes a multiplicity of singleness and brings space and time into being with beginning, end, birth, death and duality ad infinitum.

Suppose the infinity of arithmetic *could* be confined within one number, say the number 7. Suddenly number 7 says, "I am aware. I am alive. I have a mind of my own. I am 'here', located in a 'place' that follows number 6 and precedes number 8. Rank, sequence, beginning and end are established. I look about me, outside and around me, and see an infinite universe. To all appearances, since I consider myself only a number, I am just one of countless numbers. Some are greater than I and some are less than I. Limited in space, I am finite and measurable. All I see is likewise measurable, limited and finite with a beginning and end. But I see magnificent order in my universe and that is what I call God. God certainly seems 'out there' and far from me way down here. Since I am just this one number, limited in time and space, I am separate and apart from all I see. I am here and 'things' are there, a measurable distance away, and I am always stuck to 'here' and 'now'. I 'need' this or that to help me sustain my place in existence or to go here and there. I am incomplete. I am 'more' or 'less' than

that. This is 'good'. That is 'bad'. I'm really quite miserable and wish God would do something about it.”

Well now, isn't this ridiculous? The principle of arithmetic cannot be stuffed into a number. The number is 'in' the principle. The number has no mind of its own and only the *principle* is *being* anything at all. There is no beginning or end to any of the numerals because a beginningless and endless principle is continually being ALL it is, including an infinity of perfect numbers.

Just as the confined or limited view of arithmetic is a distortion, exactly so the confined and limited view of Reality is a distortion. Just as it is impossible to put the principle of arithmetic into a single number (or into all of them together), it is not *actually* possible to confine this alone Awareness to a single finite body. The view of the universe via a *possessed, imprisoned* Awareness is called the 'human experience' and it is fraught with endless perplexities. To end the perplexities, one stops believing himself a separate ego who is aware. One identifies as AWARENESS ITSELF. This one will discover himself unconfined, uncontaminated, unfettered and free. This one will discover that the only Awareness going on is God's Awareness of being all God is.

As time goes, some years ago I talked to a man who said he was terribly depressed about his personal affairs. He had tried everything he knew to help himself, including psychoanalysis and drugs. Despite everything, he had fallen such a victim of despair he could go on no longer. He told me there was nothing left but to give God a chance. It was his last resort.

He was visibly shocked when told God could not correct a problem, because so far as God was concerned there was no problem to correct. He was even more shaken when informed that the only place the problem and its depression existed was in his own belief that God was some sort of a servant intended to do his personal bidding. “If you want to get rid of your problem,” he was told, “then get rid of the belief that you are a *personality* who could *have* a problem.”

This struck him exactly as it always strikes the pompous 'old man' with a problem—as sheer idiocy, as absolute insanity, as nothing but unadulterated escapism! But his heart told him otherwise. Deep within, the “still small voice” whispered, “It is so! It is true!”

So, he set about as his heart told him and determined to forget the problem as best he could and ascertain for himself just what Reality *really* is. Reality very quickly excluded his despondency and his problem. It always does.

Another fact that lies at the root of the world's major religions, as they were originally conceived, is the *allness* of God. Indeed, the allness, hence oneness of God was the heart and soul of original Christianity before mankind began to interpret it for himself—before the 'separate mind' rearranged things to continue a place for itself.

The fact is that God (Principle) is all that is. God is the only reality. God is the only power and presence. Beside God there is nothing else at all. God is total and alone. God is one. There is not God and 'me'. There is not God and the world, universe, heaven, hell, devil, or anything else. There is God alone!

Mankind is willing to agree that God's sphere of influence includes the universe entire. He will even concede intellectually that God is everywhere, but he is not so ready to admit that God, Fact, Reality, Principle is *all of all*—that God is the *being* of existence *itself*—that Divine Principle itself is being all there is to this universe—that people and things, as objects of perception, are nothing in and of themselves, but God is being all there is to people and things—that the value and importance is not in the object perceived but is in God, the reality, the fact which is being all there is to the object and to the perception of it.

The reason for mankind's hesitancy is obvious. "If I give God ALL the power and the glory, there is none left for ME," he says. "If God is everything, I am NOTHING. This is self-destruction. It eliminates ME."

Yes, it eliminates the seeming 'me'. It puts off the 'old man', the "liar from the beginning." It gets rid of the 'me' who suffers all the agonies mankind is heir to, including limitation and lack, sickness and sin, fear, loneliness, old age and death. It gets rid of the 'me' who judges everything Awareness beholds, *but (Listen, Listen) it does not get rid of this Awareness that beholds*. It does not stop the consciousness of the rose, the mountain, the little boy nor the perception of these words right here. It does not get rid of the Awareness that is being all I am, nor does it get rid of the objects of perception. It only eliminates the 'me' and the distorting lens through which I see darkly.

These are hard statements says the 'me', fighting for its very existence. The arithmetic illustration can make them crystal clear.

Everything within the sphere of the principle of arithmetic is the principle itself. Addition and subtraction are nothing in or of themselves. They are what they are because *principle is*. The numbers, signs and symbols of arithmetic are nothing in or of themselves. They are what they are because principle IS. The numbers, signs and symbols exist because the principle Is. More correctly, principle is being all there is to addition and subtraction, digits and numbers. Anyone can readily understand that *principle* is the primordial substance throughout the totality of arithmetic. Exactly so, God is the substance of the universe!

How prone one is to look at 'things' and attach values to them: "I like this and I do not like that. This is worth more or less than that." So far as Fact is concerned, (and there is nothing but Fact, remember) there is no real value, power, nor importance in *any* 'thing'. GOD is the Reality. God, Fact, Reality, Truth is the value, power and importance. 'Things' are just what they are—"things", ideas and objects within Awareness—but without power to help or harm.

Most surely, this action of making your own personal discovery of God, Truth, the I-Identity, renders an astounding experience the very day it begins. Dear Reader, you will find yourself amazed from hour to hour, even from minute to minute. Your trials and tribulations begin to fall away in clusters. What seemed an ominous, even insurmountable problem is seen to be no problem at all. Health is found where sickness seemed—love where loneliness lingered—tranquillity and tenderness where temptation and tears had seemed. It is somewhat like becoming aware of the perfect principle of life in which there are no mistakes at all, thereby, effortlessly leaving the panic of the problems and joying in (and as) the consciousness of principle itself, wherein one is totally aware the 'answers' exist. It seems a little like turning from the problem to Fact, in which there is nothing to turn from nor be afraid of.

A businessman of my close acquaintance was informed by a representative of the government that he had been (inadvertently) violating a federal law for quite some time. The payments and penalties due the government amounted to several thousand dollars, enough to bring about the dissolution of his business and the loss of his home as well. In the face of what certainly seemed a problem of major proportions, the businessman steadfastly stood his ground.

"This single Awareness, is self-evidently all I am," he said. "This Awareness is *all* to me. God is being all there is to *this* very Awareness. All that can be seen is God's own perception of God. Reality perceives Reality. It seems a little silly to think Perfection can disturb Perfection. The government representative is *within* this Awareness I am, just as everything else that is seen. The government and its representatives are within Awareness like the letters are 'in' the alphabet. The letters can do nothing

to destroy the tranquillity of the alphabet. How can this man do anything to harm the Awareness I am?"

He stood his ground in the face of the hydra-headed monster to find out shortly that the amount of the money involved was only half as much—then a fourth as much—then, low and behold, the government had made a mistake and there had been no violation at all!

There is *actually* no imperfection on this earth. There is *actually* no problem to be solved. There is *actually* nothing to be overcome or healed. There is *actually* no separate little ego with a mind of its own to be awakened, eliminated or put off.

It cannot be denied there *seems* to be much to contend with and correct. But *to whom* does it seem this way? Always to the one who thinks he is something of himself, to the one who thinks he has a mind of his own and that Awareness belongs to his personal mind, to the one who would make a *servant* of Awareness and have it report just what he wants to see and hear and feel. Then, *that* prisoner of Awareness, called 'mortal man', is either happy or unhappy depending on how nearly 'his' Awareness shows 'him' what 'he' wants to see. All the while Awareness goes right on being aware. All the while Awareness goes right on just being what it is, *consciousness* being perfectly aware of *existence*. All the while Awareness constantly beholds the *perfection* of Existence and *nothing else*. The one in such great misery is that one to whom Awareness reports and who *judges* the reports of Awareness that come to 'him'. The one who is elated or despondent, well supplied or in poverty, is the one who, *judging the reports of 'his senses'*, either likes them or dislikes them. The one with the problem is *always* the one who considers himself a personality with a mind of his own that is aware—that is, who consciously or unconsciously believes himself to be the grand custodian and possessor of Awareness (Life).

Well, I have news for you. Awareness cannot be possessed. Awareness does not belong to a single man or woman. Awareness is not the *servant* of anybody or anything. Awareness 'belongs' to the Divine Mind, Infinite Consciousness, Reality, God, just as 'yellow' belongs to gold, just as the numerals belong to arithmetic. *You are this very Awareness itself*. You are not a mortal being who contains an awareness. You are the Divine Awareness, *itself!*

Can you imagine what this means? You no longer have any responsibility as a *person* to see this or experience that! You no longer have to judge anything that you see or hear as Awareness! You have no personal responsibility at all. You have but to *be* a faithful witness, a faithful *Awareness*, and *not* the enslaved Awareness of Bill or John or Mary. In fact, you are this already, without effort, because Awareness is God's activity, God's own knowledge of Itself, Reality's Awareness of being what It is. All there is to Bill or Mary or John is the *belief* that they are something that can contain, possess, imprison, or make a servant and slave of God's Awareness of being, of God's knowledge of existing. Since the Awareness of Being is God's activity, Awareness cannot be possessed, made a servant, or contained within a body, an object of perception. This eliminates the possibility that something exists that *can* contain Awareness, even in belief. Does this not put Bill and Mary and John in their proper perspective? They have no power, importance, nor authority of their own at all. GOD, REALITY, TRUTH is being exactly what they are. God's Awareness of being God includes what is called Bill or Mary or John, just as it includes 'beauty' and 'love'—just as gold includes yellow—just as arithmetic includes numbers.

Are you not aware of *being* right now? Of course you are. You are aware of these words. Is not this very Awareness *all inclusive* to you? Have you ever been *outside* it? Have you ever seen a sight that did not come to you as *this* very Awareness? Certainly not. Does not this Awareness include the mountains, the oceans, the microcosm and the macrocosm, the Pleiades and all the galaxies? This Awareness really is *alone and all* to you, is it not? Honesty, total honesty, will not allow you to answer otherwise. The Awareness that reads this book is *infinite*. It is *alone*. It is *all*. It is the Divine

Awareness of Existence. It is God's knowledge of Himself. It is God's knowledge of being God. It does not belong to 'another'. It is not contained nor possessed by 'another'. It is not beholden to 'another' called Bill or Mary or John. This Awareness, this very Awareness, that is aware right here, right now, is *God's* Awareness of being all that God is. The 'responsibility' is God's. The 'burden' is God's. This Awareness is *free*. Awareness has never really been bound to a body called Bill, Mary or John, nor judged by any of their judgments, nor limited by these limitations. Awareness says to those who are weary and heavy laden, "Leave the separate sense of self and return to *me* and I will give you rest."

Awareness has just gone right on being aware. You, dear Reader, are AWARENESS. You are not a big tub of ego with a personal name that has had Awareness reporting to *it!*

The "Awareness" spoken of here is Life, the very activity that is reading these words. It is now seen and understood as God's Awareness of God, That Which Is.

And is it not true that this Awareness has never reported anything that was *good* or *bad*? Sit easy for a moment and mull this over. Awareness *Itself* passes no judgment on the things seen or on the situations experienced. Awareness is just being *aware*, is it not? Awareness sees the mountains, the stars, the trees. It is Bill, Mary or John (who profess to possess *Awareness*) who makes the judgment. It is always Bill, Mary or John who likes or dislikes what Awareness reports. And it is always Bill, Mary and John who suffer the agony of hell when things do nothing to please them—and *nothing* pleases for long.

Reader, your 'salvation' is simple and easy. It is to come out and be separate from Bill, Mary or whatever you call yourself. It is to cease identifying as an enslaver of God, as a possessor of Infinite Awareness. *It is to start right now and identify correctly as Awareness itself.* There is no yourself, myself or any other self but God. God is being this Awareness. This is who and what you are. You are *not* a miserable, suffering mortal, so you can stop acting like one. God, Perfection Itself, is being 'you.'

I have known those who have seen and understood this Light instantaneously. Their problems, consternations and fears were shed as quickly and easily as one takes off his coat. These were the ones who were humbly ready, willing and eager to let God be *all* that God already is, leaving no place for an ego that puffs itself up and claims to have an awareness of its own.

Likewise, I have known those who were reluctant to give up the 'old man', the prisoner of Awareness. They were the ones who attempted to *use* Principle that they might 'heal' this, 'correct' that, or to see more 'good' things. All the while they still had Awareness reporting *to* the mortal mess they identified themselves *as*. Such as these, like Jacob of old, fight an awful battle with themselves. The personal sense of self, called Bill, Mary or John, is the 'old bottle', and 'old man' who must be 'put off' but who does not want to be put off. He fights furiously and leaves no stone unturned to prove he is a reality; he fights until he is honestly lost sight of in the allness of God, there to be seen as an impossibility. Thus *ends* the dream as the old man and "the place thereof shall know him no more."

No untoward or miserable situation can present itself to God. Misery appears to the one who attempts to make a slave of God's own Awareness of Being. Such a slave-master is not possible. You can, therefore, stop attempting to play a dream role and end the karmic suffering that seems to result from such foolishness.

How quickly? Right now! Awareness *itself* is what you are. It is *all* you are. It includes all you have ever been aware of from the countless grains of sand to the galaxies, from the most abstruse philosophical speculation to the simple sparrow on the sidewalk. This Awareness (Life) cannot be possessed by a 'body' it *includes*. You do not attempt to jam the whole of arithmetic into one of its numbers nor cram the alphabet into one of its letters, because it is not possible. Neither is it possible to stuff the totality of Life into a particular body the 'old man' is identified as.

Awareness itself goes right on being aware of the happiness and resplendent joy of Being. GOD, REALITY, is being this Being! Let the old man go. That is not your Identity. *Be Awareness*, the faithful witness ONLY! Relax and let GOD be what you are already! It has been your Father's good pleasure to give you the Kingdom entire—Your very *Being*!

A FINAL WORD

There is a saying in the East that nothing has been read once until it has been read twelve times. May I suggest that you begin to reread this booklet at once. Do not put it aside until you have captured its message. There is a simple and gentle Light within these pages that will change your life and make all things new. It can! It will! But it is a message only the Heart can find. Search with the Heart and you will find it.

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