



Gathering In Winter Park –1992

By: Raj Christ Jesus -

RAJ OPENING COMMENTS: Good morning. There is a premise to this weekend. The premise is, that you are neither behind the point of perfect, nor advancing toward it, you are at that point, and must understand yourself there from. That is actually the premise of every moment of conscious experience you experience. And if you see yourself, if you get up in the morning and see yourself as struggling to advance to your good, to your health, to the Kingdom of Heaven, to your Awakening, then you will ignore the fact, and you will live out the word that you are giving. The simple fact is, that you're all having a dream right in the middle of the Kingdom of Heaven. And in the dream you think that you have a complicated process to go through, when all that you need to do is open your eyes.

I cannot convey to you how important what I have just said is. It is the simple fact, your egos will not like it, because it gives them nothing to do. If you will begin to just slightly embrace this fact, that you are neither behind the point of perfection, nor advancing toward it, a new kind of curiosity will begin to emerge in you. Not dread of your day, not dread of your relationships, but a curiosity to see what the more is that is present, than the current definitions you are giving it.

Tell me, wouldn't being asleep be the equivalent of an absence of curiosity, or aliveness to life? Indeed. And curiosity is the one single most important element in your Awakening. The ego says do not be curious, because you will uncover a can of worms. It says, don't be curious, because indeed, if you uncover the truth, it will do exactly what you think it will do, it will convict you, instead of uncover your innocence.

So, where does curiosity begin? It best begins with right where you are. The first lesson in A Course In Miracles says, "nothing that I see means anything." And this throws everyone for a loop. It's suppose to. It is suppose to unroot you from your confidence in your present definitions of everything. In fact, any of you who have seriously practiced that lesson, have found that it brings you to a point of frustration. And in that frustration, curiosity is born. And that's the point. You cannot stand being in a meaningless existence. But until it becomes meaningless, until you are willing to look around at everything and say, "nothing that I see means anything," you will not be able to escape from the meanings you have assigned to everything, that keeps you from seeing the Kingdom of Heaven right where you are.

Until you are not so damn sure that you know who your wife or your husband is, and what a slob, or what a bastard, or what a whatever they are, until you are able to set aside your very clear perception of them, you will not be in a position to recognize who they truly Are. In other words, the definitions you give to things, constitutes an act that is the opposite of love, in every instance. Because Love is the willingness to recognize that which is Real, with a capital “R,” in each and everything. How can you possibly recognize that which is real, if you are insisting upon your definition, and projecting it on that one, or projecting it on that thing?

Now, indeed, you are not a body as the Course abundantly says, but it doesn’t mean that you are not identified. How could there be unidentified God? How could there be unmanifest God? How could there be an absence of a conscious experience of God, and still have God? The Presence and Movement of Creation, that is the Presence and Movement of God, is going to be experienced as something. It is going to be an actual conscious experience, and that conscious experience will be what you would call visibility and tangibility and more.

Now, you do not say, “I am not a body,” and then abandon your body and not love it, not take care of it. You say, “I am not a body. I am not this. But I am identifiable as a Conscious experience. I am identifiable as a conscious experience.” But you say, “that’s a physical experience.” No, it’s a Conscious experience. “Oh, but that’s not what I thought it meant.” Well, how about becoming curious now.

Your world and what you call your body is the visibility and tangibility of the Movement of God infinitely identifying Himself and recognizing Himself in that Movement, in that visibility and tangibility. But God is never fooled into thinking that He is the form. And the shift of perception that now constitutes your misperception is, that you have identified with the form, and neglected the Conscious experience of Being the Infinite Intelligence or Mind, in which all experience of form is going on.

And thus, everything is, indeed, a hundred and eighty degrees out of sync, reversed. You feel as though you are inside, when you are the infinite in which all of this is occurring. And because you seem to be inside of it, it all seems to be happening to you, instead of it being you happening, because it is God happening. And you truly do not have a perspective, a private perspective of your own, different from the Fathers, that is real.

So, you are neither behind the point of perfection, nor advancing towards it. You are at that point. The Reality of you is the Reality of you at this instant. And you must understand yourself there from. And you must understand your world there from. So, that you can begin to be curious to see God. Your present definition of everything you see is quite false, but it is a definition or a false definition of something Real.

So, this weekend is your opportunity to experience your curiosity, and see where it leads. And curiosity is expressed in the form of questions. Don't be afraid of any question you have. Don't be reluctant to ask any question you have. Because at the bottom line, a question is the leading edge of an answer.

QUESTION: I've been exposed to ideas from the "Great White Brotherhood." And the person telling me about these things, is saying it's the next step beyond The Course In Miracles. I'd like your response.

ANSWER: Let me put it this way. Pardon? Would you repeat the question please.

QUESTION: I've been told that the "Great White Brotherhood," the ideas of the 32 corona lessons, etc., are sort of the next step for understanding the universe and truth. And that if I want to progress spiritually, I will move on from The Course In Miracles to this. I'd like to know what you think of that.

ANSWER: Indeed, you must understand that The Course In Miracles is not a step. It is not a technique in the world for advancing you spiritually. We are through with advancing spiritually. You have had centuries of religious teachings of one sort or another, and everyone has gotten into the habit, you could say, of enjoying the parade of spiritually advanced floats to entertain you, and to give you a feeling that something is really happening that is beyond entertainment.

Now, literally the presence of the Course, in what you call your human experience, is the way you are experiencing a fourth-dimensional. In other words, a Movement that is not originating within the three-dimensional time space continuum that you all experience yourself as being in. The presence and movement of the meaning of the Course is a movement from, what I am going to call a dimension beyond the one you find yourself confined to. It is not there to help improve your dream. It is not here to help improve your human experience. But don't jump to conclusions. It is here to help you remember the infiniteness of your Self and your Divine status as that Conscious Awareness, which is God in the act of recognizing Himself/Herself in all that exists.

Now, indeed, there is much talk about what comes after A Course In Miracles. All you have to do is read the last lesson. And in effect the last lesson says—and I am quoting another lesson—"today I will make no decisions by myself." What comes after A Course In Miracles, is leaning into the Divine Knowing and actually not exercising human will or human thinking or accomplishing of any kind, but rather being in that place where your true Conscious experience of Being as the Presence of the Mind of God being You, can occur.

Because you see people pass on, you think there is a next step after this. But I will tell you something, if you pass on and you have not Awakened before

you pass on, you are still experiencing the same degree of ignorance, you could say, in a new place, with the same opportunity to Awaken to who you Divinely Are. Because you can look back, and you have history books, and you have the family tree, and an apparent lengthy history, it appears to you as though progress occurs in time, from past, to present, to future.

And thus, it can appear to you that the Course is just another set of books that can help you in this process. But the point is to wake up. The point is not to continue in a dream that has great longevity and just live the dream with more style.

I do not mean to minimize the value, and there really is value, of what is expressed in the “Magic Kingdom,” where it is said that, “if you can imagine it, you can do it.” But imagination is of the ego, at least in the manner that it is currently used. And the words truly need to be, “if you can Know it, with a capital “K,” you can Be it.”

Now, it is time to be through with doing. It is time to be through with accomplishing. It is time to be through with improving. And there is a way to do it.

Paul is doing it at this moment. Paul is being absolutely appropriate in this given moment. And to be absolutely appropriate does not mean an exclusive experience of sitting in front of other people, saying words that are not one’s own. Because it can occur just as easily on the freeway or in any other situation. When one is willing to relinquish self-assertion, with a small “s,” and be in the Movement of God, one is utterly appropriate whether one is cooking dinner, or driving a car, or in a gathering.

And when one is being appropriate, the cooking of the meal becomes a Divine experience, not only for the cook, but for those who enjoy the meal. And driving on the freeway becomes a Divine experience, not only for the one who is willing to be in tune and be in the flow of the Movement of God, but everyone else on the freeway has the opportunity to have a new perception. As the bumper sticker out in the foyer says, “Shift happens.”

All it takes is one individual being willing to say, “nothing that I see means anything.” And then letting the Movement within him well up, or the Movement within her well up, that demands meaning. Not for any intellectual reason, but because there cannot be anything without meaning, there cannot be God without meaning.

Your question is a question that could be asked by a student in a university. A student, let us say, who has actually finished all four years of college, but has gotten into the swing of things, he’s on a roll, taking classes. And while everyone else is getting ready for graduation, this one is looking at the catalog for the next year, because that’s what one does at the end of one year, one get ready for the next class.

I'm telling you, all of you, that all of you are at the point of graduation. You're not a select group. Everyone on your planet who is not Awake, and everyone who is not currently incarnated, but is not Awake, stands at the threshold of Awakening. Why? Because there are more who are Awake than are asleep, and there are rapidly becoming too few dreamers to join in the dream, and thus support the on going experience of the illusion.

You know what? That means it's going to be easier for everyone than it has ever been before. You have heard, many of you, the parable of the person who comes to labor in the field, comes early in the morning, and is promised a certain amount of money for his labor. And then there is someone who comes at the end of the day, and only works fifteen minutes and gets paid an equal amount. Why, it was much easier for the person who came at the end to earn that amount, than the one who came first. And everybody says, "unfair, unfair," except, I'm telling you, that you are the Johnny-come-latelies.

And thank God, that it's going to be easier for you. And it is going to be easier for you, because of the ones who did it when was harder. Because everyone who has Awakened already has lessened the density of the dream, therefore, has lessened it's seeming integrity, so that it's able to come apart and dissolve with less stress and less effort. That's why it's so important to just bring curiosity into play. It is as though the stage is already set and all somebody has to do is peak under the curtain.

So please, let's get ready to leave school. And let's not be thinking about the next step and what comes after the Course. What comes after the Course, is living the Course. Actually daring, moment by moment in your day, to stand at the edge of the unknown, as Paul is doing at this moment. It's nothing spectacular, nothing grossly out of the ordinary. And believe me, he hears what I am saying, he is the one who is moving his hands and his mouth. He is being utterly appropriate.

You will not appear to be abnormal. You will appear to be more and more meaningful, whether you are expressing Divine ideas, or whether you are expressing a poem that is coming off the end of your tongue without any conscious fore thought, or cooking a dinner that you had no recipe for, that turns out to be exquisitely delicious.

Unfortunately, for those of you who's egos have suggested that spiritual growth is going to bring about radical marvelous new ideas, it is a lot of the old ones that you're going to find really have the meaning, "put your hand in the hand of the man." You cannot wake up alone, joining must occur. You must take someone's hand and break the sense of separation and independence and of being a self-made-man, or becoming an emancipated woman who can be a self-made-woman.

You must be willing to say, “I fit in somewhere,” and not be upset because you fit in and do not stand out. Because when you let yourself into the conscious experience of fitting in, you have the opportunity to make connection with All That Is, and you could say experience the infiniteness of you, the infinite Integrity of you as a consciously infinite experience. But to the ego this is very scary, to sacrifice your tiny independence, because it’s all you have that seems to be meaningful. That which goes beyond the Course, is that individual who gives up trying to be an independent soul.

Now, it is very difficult for any of you to join with each other unequivocally. And that is why you are invited to join with the Holy Spirit. First of all, you are enjoined to do that, because the Holy Spirit is Awake, and therefore utterly and absolutely dependable, calling for no fear on your part, but allowing for absolute trust.

And secondly, because as Paul brought out at the beginning, it is your Divinity held in trust, while you dally with the ego. And your joining with it as a Conscious experience, is the way you reunite with your Self and find your Sanity returning, and your faulty misperception yielding to the Conscious experience of the glory of God all around you.

You join with the Holy Spirit and discover that you are the Christ, and always have been, never stopped for a moment. And as the Christ, as the Conscious experience of Being what the Christ is, you experience your union with the Father. And your Conscious union with the Father, means your Conscious experience of union with the infinite Movement of Creation, which has been carelessly expressed as co-creation. The ego likes that word.

Co-creation is a poor word for the experience of union with the Father, where claiming no other mind than the Mind of the Father you experience your birthright as the Conscious experience of the Totality of the Movement of Creation, as your Self. But this is a new self, that has no sense or experience of separateness. I want to be very clear on that.

Lets stop thinking in terms of what comes next in your spiritual growth. Spiritual growth must come to a stop. Why? For the same reason that Paul would not find any work. Because continued spiritual progress will not identify fulfillment of purpose for you. Why? Because in spite of your egos you are waking up. Why? Because there are too few dreaming to support the on-goingness of the dream. And so here you are, whether you like it or not, waking up. And I’m not here to tell you to wake up, I’m here to tell you that you are waking up, so that you might not misunderstand what is happening, and rebel against it. And so, that you might actually consciously practice curiosity.

Waking up is going on all over the place, and I will tell you something, it’s not happening within organizations. It’s happening in the heart. People are beginning to feel their Soul again. Why? Because there isn’t as much covering it

up. The Course hasn't uncovered your Souls, your Soul is uncovering to you what's in the Course, or any "holy book" that you might pick up. The Course does not have a corner on the market, but it does happen to be the most current penetration of the human experience of a Divine event.

And indeed, I'm here to encourage each of you to let that Divine penetration occur within you directly, every day. Because the clarification is already occurring, and your conscious intent to be curious will put you in such alignment with what is already happening, that it will make the happening more graceful. That is why. That's the end of the answer.

QUESTION: Good morning Raj.

ANSWER: Good morning.

QUESTION: I'm really grateful you're here with us today.

ANSWER: I wish you would be grateful that I am here with you everyday.

QUESTION: Indeed.

ANSWER: I'm going to interrupt you for a moment. What I mean by that is not to suggest that you feel guilty, but rather to remind you that the gratitude you feel today can be felt everyday, and the more you do embrace it consciously, the more opportunity each of you has for experiencing me directly. Continue...

QUESTION: Thank you. When we're working workbook lessons and meditating, and we reach that point that you were talking about earlier today, that point of perfection, and there's a great burst of light. And with that light there's a great deal of energy, feeling, life. But that light only last for maybe a second or two seconds. What is it that we do at that point to shut it down? That's my question.

ANSWER: You use your body as a shield, very simply. You tighten up. You use the body to do it with. I'm going to tell you something, not one of you is a body, but not one of you is bodiless. And the clearest way that I can convey to you the true nature of body, is to refer to it as a body of light. It is a body of energy. And even physically speaking, I mean in scientific terms, when you or your scientists get down to the smallest particle, of what you call physicality, all you find there is energy pattern. A pattern of energy that has such integrity that it seems to be experienceable in an enduring way, and therefore identifiable in an on-going way. But at the bottom line, there is not one particle of substance, matter. It is all already energy.

Why it is not presently being experienced as light, is because in identifying with and as the form, one initially feels vulnerable, and one attempts to shield ones self, protect one self. And that form which is being identified becomes contracted, literally. Until it becomes, you might say, so dense that the light cannot be experienced consciously.

The use to which you are putting your body is what keeps you in the dark, literally. And the curiosity, that I mentioned, once it begins to be brought into play, once there is a desire to see the more of a thing that is present than you currently perceive it to be, you have practiced greater defenselessness.

And thus, two things happen, it seems to you that there can be an influx of light in terms of revelation. The other thing that you will find beginning to happen is, that there is an opportunity for a breakthrough of light, which even today some of those of you who are more sensitive than others, can see as light streaming from the fingers, and the toes, and the palms of the hands, etc., and what has been referred to as an aura. Unfortunately it's been called another body.

There's only one body, either seen clearly or seen through a glass darkly, densely. There's only one Reality present to be experienced, which you are either seeing clearly as the Kingdom of Heaven, or through a glass darkly as a material world and universe. But there's only one thing to experience. You use your body for defense and the light of it becomes hidden.

Now, the simple fact is, that all of you will only let in a little bit of your good, because you don't want to be overwhelmed. Why would your good overwhelm you? Because you think you've got to process it and be in charge of it. And so, you won't let it in any faster than you can deal with intelligently, which mean get a control of intelligently.

But, the majority in this room know that you are getting breakthroughs whether you are ready for them or not. And they are creating Movement in you faster than you can process them, and as a result you are having remarkable experiences, that haven't truly overwhelmed you. That which causes revelation to seem to be overwhelming, is the energy or effort you bring into play in order to capture the good, to understand it, so that you can control it.

It isn't the good that is overwhelming you. What is overwhelming you, is thinking that the thirty juggling balls that have been thrown at you, must be controlled by you, instead of putting your hands at your side, and watching God be the Movement.

One last point, the reason you want to control your good, is so that you can be better at protecting yourself, and that is not what your good is for. That's the end of the answer.

QUESTION: I'm glad you're here, and I'm glad you're here everyday, and thanks for the help that you've already given.

ANSWER: You are welcome.

QUESTION: How do you suggest that I can help my child with his fears. What can I do?

ANSWER: More than anything be willing to express your fearlessness. More than any words you could use, is what you would call your nonverbal communication. First of all your lack of reaction. Your lack of reaction, allows

your child to say, “Oh, maybe I don’t have to react.” And then if you speak without fear, or without an edge on your voice, in a reassuring and grounded manner, this tone, even more than the words, conveys most meaningfully to your child, that he or she does not need to be reacting.

And then, if generally speaking, you are referring to your world as though it is a fundamentally orderly place, where principles do operate, and that there is something dependable in a positive manner about it, this also will help create in that child, an inclination to look for order, even where disorder seems to be going on. Sometimes just a smile is all that is needed. That is the end of the answer.

QUESTION: It’s a pleasure to be here with you today. Many people seem to be in financial quandary in this day and time. And I find myself in that particular position. Not that I’m going hungry, but I very much desire to find work that will be appropriate with the Awakening. And at times I find that I’m experiencing a goodly amount of fear over the process, because I seem to have engineered a stone wall in front of my face. What I would like to know is, what would best foster trust in this situation?

ANSWER: Always when you seem to have a stone wall in front of your face, it means that you have arrived at a point where your fulfillment or your good is going beyond your concept of good. It therefore means, that you are face with a demand to look with better eyes. How do you look with better eyes? You look with better eyes by abandoning the old way of looking. And you can do this in a very simple way, by consciously embracing the idea that there is another way to look at this. When you say there is another way to look at this, you are giving yourself permission to see a new way, instead of getting obsessed with the fact that what is happening isn’t happening according to your best concept of how it ought to be happening.

You see, none of you really wants to get stuck with what you want. And if you do get stuck with what you want, there must be a way to break loose from it. Your Being, with a capital “B,” your essential Selfhood, is forever unfolding Itself a new, because that is the nature of God. “Behold, I make all things new.” God never stops to repeat Himself. Therefore, because your Being is ever present—even if you are ignoring It—and It is unfolding Itself forever new, you holding on to what you think you want, inevitably, find yourself arriving at the point where it cannot any longer be available to you, because it is so out of sync with what your Being is being.

And if you have had a great investment in the having of what you want, emotionally and energetically and so on, the having to let go of it, can seem to say something about who you think you are. But a little bit of curiosity, together with a willingness to realize that there is another way to look at this, you will be able to give yourself permission to see the good that is yours, that is moving beyond your concept of your good. And you will be able to then find that what is happening, is

your world reconfiguring to identify your fulfillment, instead of configuring in a way that doesn't allow you to any longer have what you thought you wanted.

In other words, again, there's only one thing happening, Reality, the Divine You that you are, God being forever new. And if you are identifying with what is no longer identifying fulfillment of purpose, and you are resisting that which now is identifying fulfillment of purpose, you will hurt. Which is an indirect blessing. Or, that very same event can be looked at with a curiosity and a recognition that there's another way to see what is happening. Thus, giving yourself permission to see the fulfillment that is occurring. You can't possibly be up against a brick wall that's really a brick wall.

Now, I could go on, but I'm simply going to say, let there be a willingness to admit that maybe what is looking like a dead end to you, is your simple inability to be inappropriate. And that therefore, you have evidence of being very closely held and guided, so that you cannot stub your toe. And that if you are being very carefully guided, it must be for an intelligent reason. And the intelligence of it relates to your fulfillment of purpose. If you will approach it this way, you will become eagerly curious, and you will be more able to say, "Thy will be done Father. I'm curious. Let it come. I will not block it." If it's all the Kingdom of Heaven, your willingness to yield to it, will inevitably cause your fulfillment to become more and more consciously apparent to you.

You cannot create your abundance. Your abundance has never been withheld from you. And therefore, to be a peon, a little laborer trying to create a little bit of abundance is redundant.

Remember, you are neither behind the point of perfection, nor advancing towards it. You are at that point, and must understand yourself there from. Become a little less defended, and watch your fulfillment emerge from within you and from around you.

And above all, do not play into the ego suggestion, that you are the cause of the brick wall. That's another handy way the ego has for causing you to misinterpret the hand of God, that will not let you bash your foot against a stone and bruise it, and would move you into feelings of guilt, when what is really called for, is a bountiful gratitude to God.

You're not lost. And you are not at an impasse. You are at a place where, what I'm going to call benign curiosity is called for. Benign curiosity, is curiosity without willfulness attached. You are in a delightful spot. And don't say, "well, if I was thirty years younger, I might be able to believe that." Another dirty dastardly ego deed.

You are your Father's Son at this instant. And you are at this instant the expression of a current God. you are therefore, the current expression. You are therefore, the current embodiment of the Movement of Creation. And there truly is no age to you, you can't use it as an excuse. That's the end of the answer.

QUESTION: Good afternoon.

ANSWER: Good afternoon.

QUESTION: It's really a delight to be with everyone here. I would like some direction in my relationship with my family, particularly with my husband, and how our paths have grown in different directions.

ANSWER: What is the nuttiest nut of the relationship?

QUESTION: The nuttiest nut? The nuttiest nut is the fact that we are living in a noncommittal... that it's not a marriage. And my learning to accept that, and my desire to move on gracefully about that, for everyone involved. And to do it peaceably and face my fears about it.

ANSWER: This would not be as difficult a question for you, as difficult a situation for you, if you had a clearer understanding of the nature of your relationship with the Father.

I am going to encourage all of you, as you listen during the rest of the weekend, not to cringe, or automatically assume that when I make statements such as I just made about your relationship with the Father, or your relationship with God, do not be too quick to jump to traditional interpretations of those words. Don't worry if you are confused by the meaning of my words I will explain them. If you jump to conclusions however, it may take you a few minutes to get with the program, as it were, as I go on to embellish or explain.

What I mean is, that you as a woman—and indeed I am going to be addressing every woman in this group in this answer—you're being a woman involves a lot of concepts that demean you and demean your integrity as a whole Souled Individuality. There are many of you—I do not mean at this moment, in this room—but there are many of you who have yielded to an unprincipled relationship, or an unprincipled situation, because you did not grasp the fact, that your integrity is equal to the integrity of any man you might ever meet. That you are as equally the direct expression of God, as any man is.

There are many of you who do not walk away from an unprincipled circumstance, because there is this underlying premise that you are not as able to take care of yourself as a man. That you are the "one" who is to be care for, taken care of. That it is arrogant of you to feel as sovereign as you know a man feels. As a result of this, you not only keep yourself bound, but you perpetuate your own ignorance of your own integrity, you keep yourself from discovering your capacity to be sovereign.

I'll let you in on a secret, although men feel a right to be sovereign, they for any of a number of reasons, feel as easily as women do, that maybe they won't be able to achieve it, that it isn't really theirs yet. The difference is—between men and women generally speaking—that men will dare to reach for the brass ring, they will dare to embody their sovereignty. And in so doing, they do not

perpetuate their dependence, and they open the door for their experience of their sovereignty.

Now, whether you are a male or a female, the fact is that it is your birthright to experience fulfillment. It is your birthright to have your needs met. For example: You need a job to support yourself. You need a job to express your talent, your skill, your creativity, etc. The general thought is, that there is only a certain number of jobs in the “job market,” that they are there because someone else has a need that may or may not have anything to do with yours.

Well, I will tell you something, and I have said this before: The job that identifies your fulfillment of purpose is something which evolves and emerges right out of the center of you, for the identity or identification of your fulfillment of purpose, and no one else can get it. It may appear that the opportunity is presented by someone else, but if that job is the one that identifies your fulfillment of purpose, you will be the one who gets it. This is true whether you are a man or a woman, except that men tend to naturally expect to have the manifestation of their fulfillment of purpose. And women tend to look for the men who have found their fulfillment of purpose, so that that man can take care of them.

You perpetuate the role of second class citizen. And of course, men are willing to play along with you. I am not overlooking the fact that there are men who will enforce it upon you. But it is very satisfying to the male ego to have a woman who needs them and who feels incomplete without them.

Now, you have a nonrelationship. Why? That’s what you should ask yourself. Why? Don’t be afraid to be intelligent. Don’t be afraid to be reasonable. Don’t be afraid to look at it and say, “this is a farce. It doesn’t identify fulfillment of purpose. And fulfillment of purpose is my birthright, as well as this one with whom I have a nonrelationship.” And then again, bring into play curiosity, because the minute you give permission for your fulfillment of purpose to manifest, or become embodied in your life, your world will begin to reconfigure to identify it. But you have to give permission for it. And you will not give permission for it, if you are insisting upon maintaining the status of a second class citizen. “Oh, but that isn’t what a man wants.” Well, your ego doesn’t want you to be awake either. Are you going to cooperate, or are you perhaps going to be that Presence of Intelligence that is unashamed of itself, who will, forthrightly express herself, and let the chips fall where they may.

Are you going to deprive the men in your world of the fullness of their experience that you constitute? I’m speaking to all women here. You are here, because without you some aspect of God would be unexpressed, and that is an impossibility. That is what I mean when I say, you need to get to understand your relationship with the Father better, and we could say the Father/Mother God. Because if God is Intelligence, if God is Life, if God is Soul, and Principle, and Mind, and Soul, and Spirit, then you, as the full representation, the full expression

of God, must have the same qualities to express that any other individual does also. And if you are withholding it from a relationship, or from your community, or from the world, because somehow it doesn't fit your concept of "being a woman," then you had better be willing to be a little radical, and break the traces that hold you in bondage.

Men don't hold women in bondage. Men and woman cooperate together helpfully or unhelpfully, but it is always a mutual agreement.

Now, I encourage you to become very matter of fact here, look the situation straight in the face, and call it for what it is, a nonrelationship, an absence of fulfillment of purpose. And then I encourage you to lay claim on your birthright of fulfillment of purpose, and be ready and willing to take steps, and be curious to discover what those steps are, with an expectation that your world will reconfigure for the purpose of identifying your fulfillment of purpose, and identifying the specific steps that will not leave you at a disadvantage, nor anyone else.

Sovereignty is different from independence. Sovereignty is not being dependent. Independence is a pulling back and a separation and an assertion of differentness. One is willful, and one is a yielding into the Real nature of your Being. Now the fact is that men have to do this to, but they haven't been laboring under the false sense of being a second class citizen.

Men—and in some ways this is harder than the task that a women is faced with—men must learn to yield to something bigger than them. Women have learned to join, not because it's their birthright, but because they believe it's a necessity. And so, they join from a position of weakness. Men tend not to join, unless it is a means of control. And they must learn to join, in order to release control, so that they might find out that there is an underlying order and principle to everything that is occurring, that they do not have to be responsible for. And when they are in the flow with it, they experience their unchallengable integrity.

So, be matter of fact here, and don't be afraid of the facts, the obvious facts, because they will help you to know whether you are hanging on to something valueless or not. And will help put you in the direction of a more active, unfolding experience of fulfillment. That's the end of the answer.

QUESTION: I have two questions to ask you Raj. They're both Biblical. One is: We see a different picture of God in the Old Testament and the New Testament. Has God changed during that time, or has our perception of Him changed?

ANSWER: The latter.

QUESTION: And the second question is: Could you explain Revelation to us, and it's meaning for us in this time?

ANSWER: Do you have a month? The book of Revelation is the one book that is the least touched by human manipulation of all the books in the Bible, because it was not understood, and therefore no one knew what to change.

I'm going to ask you if there is a specific portion of the Book of Revelation, that you have a stronger curiosity about than any other?

QUESTION: Well, I'm intrigued by the numerology in it, and the Seventh Day Adventist seem to focus on the numerology. Some people read it and they look at Nostradamus' predictions, and they see that in Revelations. And I tend to see Revelation as a description of maybe a shift of consciousness that we're all going through, which is changing the world. But people see their own thing in the book, and I'm curious about is there a right way to look at what the book of Revelation says?

ANSWER: As with any revelation, it is constituted of a penetration of the ego frame of reference by a Divine Movement. And as always, those from within the limited frame of reference, tend to interpret it in the style that they interpret every other part of their limited experience. And therefore, they see it as referring to events in the limited frame of reference, over a time span, having to do with growth, and development, and spiritualization, etc., etc., etc.

When in actuality, it, the Book of Revelation, like the Course, was an inner experience of illumination, connection with Reality. Now, it therefore, is the rendering in words of an experience that was being had, an experience in that which was unreal fell away, lost its validity, and reality became clearer as the actual conscious experience.

Now, as you begin to move into what I'm going to call, the experiential aspect of A Course In Miracles, you will begin to experience illumination, not through any intellectual process, but through what I can best convey to you through the use of the word "realization"—when you realize something and there was nothing preceding the realization, just suddenly knowing something, knowing the Truth.

When you are willing to not validate your own thinking, and you are willing to make an inquiry first and then listen, you move into the void. At least it seems like a void, because there is not the chatter of your thinking and your reasoning, and your ongoing defense mechanism working. And you experience peace. And out of that peace, if you abide with it, you find joy, and you find that indeed this is you experiencing the substance of You, not just another emotion, that the peace is really the substance of your Being, of You. And as you allow yourself to abide there, and be in the world from there, you will have further experiences of revelation, which will allow you to say, "Ah, that's what he meant."

In other words, no I am not going to explain the Book of Revelation. The point is that it sits there waiting for you to comprehend, the moment you begin to let yourself into the experience of revelation. When you stop thinking, you will not stop existing. And in the existence minus thinking, you will find revelation occurring, except that it will mean something to you. I'm not avoiding the question, but I am setting your nose in the right direction.

We're going to vary the format here, and I'm going to ask if there is anyone else who has a question about the Book of Revelation specifically.

QUESTION: Is there any significance to the reference to Judea over and over in the Book, that you could explain to me at all?

ANSWER: No.

QUESTION: I'm interested in the mark of the beast.

ANSWER: I will tell you that rather than 6-6-6, it should be I-I-I. The mark of the beast, at an experiential level, is preoccupation with self, not ones Divine Being, but ones acquired concept of ones self, ones concept of oneself that is based upon how it relates to everything else in the world. In other words, that which accommodates and defends itself against everything and everyone else's perception of it, that which becomes the puppet of opinion, that which has no sense of its Integrity, that which has no real existence but which fights for its existence.

Beast... Everyone thinks devil. Beast... a beast is ignorant. A beast is governed by instinct, which is the equivalent of emotion. Beast is that which is not governed by Soul, but by reaction.

Waking up really involves identifying the I, not with the form, but with and as Consciousness or Mind. The shift of perception is from identification with the body, to identification as that Conscious Awareness in which the experience of form is going on. It is the shift of identification from body to Mind. In order to have the first three dimensions, line, plane, space, you must have something else, that which embraces it. Just as in order to have line and plane, you must have space which can embrace it. And your scientist think that time is that which embraces line, plane and space, but it is Mind. You could say the fourth-dimension is Mind. And time is just a convenient means of measuring the Movement of Mind, as it is observed in the line plane and space.

The mark of the beast is ignorance. And ignorance finds expression and support in preoccupation with an acquired sense of identity, based upon appearances, based upon identification with the body. That's the end of the answer.

QUESTION: The Course has stimulated my curiosity about angels. Never is the word angel in it's singular used in the Course. But always angels and sometimes referred to as hovering near and all about. So my curiosity is about angels.

ANSWER: Divinely speaking, nothing ever happens in the singular. Angels... I'm going to put it this way, angels are Divinely, what nature spirits are humanly, or in the so-called earthly realm. They are Divine natures, present, in support of, the nurturing of all that awakens in you your experience of wholeness, rather than partialness and separation. They are able to register with you, mostly, at what you would call a gut level, a nudge, an inclination to behave in a different

way, or do a different thing. You often experience them as an unreasonable good feeling that is there for no reason.

Oh, you are all companioned with, far more greatly than you imagine, because you have never stopped being the Christ that you Are. And that fact confronts you moment by moment in an infinity of different ways.

There are not levels of angels. They do not hold different classifications. And you can experience as much or as little of the Divine Intent of them, as you are willing to allow to register with you. They do not act as guides. But, I am going to say, they function rather as spiritual fertilizer to your budding spirituality, that which nurtures it, and yet does not require you to comprehend it.

Angels do appear in many forms, as ideas, as triggers to clarification, as a gentle reminder to be sweet, as a gentle reminder to be patient with yourselves. And then, indeed, as Presence's that convey to you most distinctly—as happened with my Mother—your purpose at a particular time. Not a special dispensation, but the simple fact of what is going on with you at that time, so that you might be in harmony with it. And there is always an accompanying experience of Divinity when you experience angels, somewhat of the feel that you would associate with a Divine revelation.

They are all around. I'm going to give you another image: They are like the scent lingering in a room that a woman has walked through, almost palpably there, unmistakable, but intangible. That's the end of the answer.

QUESTION: Thank you. It's good to be here. I've noticed in different spiritual quests, that the student has the propensity to worship the way-shower, rather than the way. And that has been eliminated in A Course In Miracles, because there is no way-shower to speak of in the physical plane.

ANSWER: Indeed.

QUESTION: Yes. Could you talk a little bit about that aspect, and also the particular trappings of the ego. Can you give a specific way where we can know, differentiating I guess between Thy will and the ego will. Thank you.

ANSWER: Always, when something is of the ego, you will have a feeling somewhere between the chest and the solar plexus of tension or uneasiness, similar to what you might feel or felt as a child when you went down an elevator. When what you are hearing is not of the ego, but is indeed guidance, there will be no sensation of that sort, but peace. The other thing that you cannot forget is, that each one of you has the inherent capacity to recognize Truth.

And I say this over and over, and you might get tired of hearing it, but it is such a simple Truth, and all of you are looking for such complex answers, that you tend to forget that you have this innate capacity, and therefore you do not rely upon it. It doesn't get any exercise, you might say. And because you do not engage it regularly, you do not begin to feel the dependability of it, and thus become comfortable with it.

If you are sleeping at night, and having a dream, and there is someone else in the dream, how could that one possibly show you the way back into your bedroom? You need someone like a mother, or an alarm clock, to occur in the bedroom, not in the dream, to distract you, to get your attention away from the dream. So, the thing that will wake you up, is not something from within the dream.

This is why I have said, the only teacher worth his salt, who is incarnated, is one who is constantly pointing you back to You, and your inherent capacity to recognize Truth. That teacher is worth his salt, who tells you repeatedly, to make that investment of trust in your capacity to recognize truth, that leap of faith that goes beyond confidence and lean into it.

Now, the joining that needs to be done before you join with each other, is with the Holy Spirit, or the Father, or me, or your guide, one who can tell you and encourage you to take that step, or to tell you that that step IS safe, even though you are frightened by it, even though the ego is arguing against it.

“Today I will make no decisions by myself.” Well, you know you had a certain number of years of making decisions by yourself and you are relatively safe. Therefore, if you experiment, if you decide that today you are going to do it differently, you know that you will not suddenly be vulnerable, because you can always fall back upon your developed ability to make judgments, and come to conclusions and decisions, without dying in the process.

A shift must eventually occur. A shift away from self-determination—small “s” self-determination—to capital “S” Self-government. Except, that capital “S” Self-government means, being joined with, in union with, flowing with, being nothing other than the Presence of the Movement of the Father, your Real Selfhood.

We must be careful with language here, however, because when the Father is the only Presence there where you are, you can’t talk about your Selfhood anymore. I only used that term to convey to you, that it will still be you from your standpoint of experience. But it will be you experiencing the Mind of God, from God’s point of view, not from some tiny ego point of view.

Let’s be grounded here. Indeed there are way-showers. It is almost impossible to wake up without help, because the ego definitions of everything are such, that anything smacking of Awakening is interpreted as highly dangerous. And therefore, it is only those with, what you might call great spiritual fortitude, who can cross the barriers set up by the ego.

And God is Love. And your very Being is Love. And that Love embraces you, even in your ignorant limited sense of yourself. And therefore, embraces you. And you could say, even entices you into your Awakened state, because it is the Intent of your Being—with a capital “B”—it is the Intent of that which you

Divinely are, to have all of what you are experiencing itself consciously, instead of partially or unconsciously.

Don't try to be too darn independent in your process of Awakening, because it will stifle the process and make it uncomfortable. You do have way-showers. The Father does come out the meet you. Your disowned Divinity smacks you in the face almost, the moment you have a curiosity to experience it and a willingness to let it in. I say smacks you in the face, only in the sense that it's already You, and it's unavoidable as an experience, if you start thinking about and treating yourself as though you were Divine now. Until you have the willingness to yield all the way, you do have help, but you must open up to it and let it in.

And at the bottom line: it is that point of willingness to yield into the Father, "Thy will not mine be done," that the Course is all about. But, indeed, that requires abandoning the intellect and reason. "Oh, that sounds dangerous."

The right use of reason is, to bring you to a point where there is such a conviction in the Allness of God, that you don't feel it necessary to use reason in order to be safe, and you can yield into the Father's will—and as I've said before—regain your Sanity, be You in your Right Mind. That's the end of the answer.

QUESTION: I seem to have a fear, reluctance to make commitment, total commitment, I think general. Could you give me some guidance to help me to make commitment or total commitment?

ANSWER: This is just exactly the situation in which it is absolutely wonderful that there is such a thing called the Holy Spirit. Because, when you need help with something that you seem unable to have the stamina or strength to accomplish, because of doubt, you have something you can ask for help from. And my answer to you is: Desire of the Holy Spirit, that you have the strength and the courage to make commitment.

And I'm going to suggest something else. I'm going to suggest that you ask the Holy Spirit to make that which you want to be committed to, seem so desirable, that it won't be as difficult to make commitment. This is something you need help on. In other words, it isn't something that you need to be able to do all by yourself.

And I want you to know something else. No desire that you put forth to me, or to the Holy Spirit, or to the Father, or to your guide will ever be taken as an imposition, or a bother. I will tell you that, any time we see an act of curiosity, or an act of desire, we rejoice. And I will also say, that whenever desire of this sort is present, the best way I can put it is, that the glow of you, the light of you brightens. We can easily tell when one is stirring from his or her dreams, his or her ignorance, and there is always rejoicing. So, please ask the Holy Spirit for the strength, and the stamina, and the courage to make the commitment.

And I will tell you something else. Commitment will occur when you let go. In other words, as you sit there right now, if you were to completely relax, you would say that you are committed to your chair. You do not have to look at commitment as a struggle, as a hanging on, as a laying hold of something and never letting it go.

You know what? You don't have to lay hold of your Divinity. What you have to do is let go of the belief that it isn't already yours, that you are not already Divine. You could dare to become lazy in your willingness to be distracted easily. And I encourage you to find ways to express this process of becoming lazy, of letting go into a thing, whether it is a job, or whether it is a relationship, or whether it is your Divinity. So that you might discover that you can be committed through an absence of an inclination to be fidgety. That's the end of the answer.

QUESTION: The last several weeks I have chosen, I suppose, to be troubled by what I see as a greater polarity that's existing. The incidence in Los Angeles, turning on TV and seeing what we call Fundamentalists blasting homosexuals, blasting anyone who disagrees with how they see the world to be. And I have chosen to be troubled by that, and have searched for the meaning in it, and relief from it. And I was hoping you might be able to help me with that.

ANSWER: Well, I'll tell you something, the ego wouldn't be screaming if it wasn't threatened. And if the ego is being threatened, it means something Real is happening. It means that Movement is occurring. And so, I encourage you, instead of homing in on the apparent wailing of the ego and its objections, begin to look to see what it is that is causing the ego to rise up. The ego, indeed, wants to maintain the status quo. Change is not allowed. Acceptance, which is a form of union, is intolerable. Love is, of course, unacceptable.

Change is afoot, you better believe it. And you have been seeing it happening. And the changes that are occurring are not planned, they have been spontaneous events, which everyone has had to huff and puff to keep up with, to stay abreast of. Unrest... you could call unrest the process of unrutting, the end of stupid peace, ignorant peace.

I'm not going to get into predictions here, but I want you to notice that there are some people who are afraid for Perot to become President, because it would obviously require change. And he wants to involve everyone, and not just keep the business of Washington, in Washington. But I will tell you though, it's more important to be afraid of the ones you're all comfortable with, because they've got it all down pat, and it doesn't involve you, and it lets you move along in stupid rest.

The ego would keep you unconscious, not actively engaged with the whole, not actively conscious of your status, let us say, as a citizen, not only of your country but a citizen of the world, and ultimately a citizen of the universe.

The ego is the ultimate of conservatism, and Being is the ultimate of radical creativity. I use the word radical, not in the sense of that which is antagonistically asserting itself for the sake of being different, but rather as an expression of the “forever new,” “forever original,” Movement of Being, that is called God.

Don't be too self-righteous, because I don't see a single one in this room who is radical enough. “Give me my good, but not too much of it, and not too fast.” But at the same time that you're not going to be self-righteous when you look at another, who is expressing his bondage, also don't join that one by being unreasonably conservative.

Dare to discover the originality of your Being, by neglecting to rely upon your memory, and your conditioning, that allows you to function fairly well without being wide awake.

And at the bottom line, realize you are going to have to change. It is a wonderful thing to experience your Christhood. I mean, it is a wonderful thing for you to experience your Christhood. But everyone would like to wait until tomorrow, or dabble in it a little bit today, and maybe a little bit more tomorrow.

What you don't realize is, that when you consciously embrace who and what you really are, you come Home, into an experience of absolute invulnerability, and absolute innocence. So absolute, that the suggestion of guilt being applied to you, is so nonsensical, that it would bring forth gales of laughter from you. That means, that a rather fundamental major change has to occur.

You have to begin to hold yourself guiltless, no matter what has happened. And then you will find yourself holding your fellow man guiltless, also. And that means, that when your fellow man walks around parading a haughty ego, that says “I'm guilty, I'm guilty, I'm guilty, somebody agree with me and call me a bastard.” You will say, “no, that's ridiculous, I can't call you that, because you aren't what you are presenting yourself to be, I will not join you in that point of view. I love you.”

Love is the willingness to recognize, that which is Real in each and everything, each and everyone. That does not mean, love the guilty bastard. It means, love the innocent Son of God or Daughter of God that has to be there before a misperception of guilt can be projected upon him or her. This is so important.

What is a special relationship that the Course speaks of? It is a mutual agreement, a mutual agreement, it takes two or more. A mutual agreement to believe that an untruth is true. To believe that something that God did not create exists, and that will be the standard of truth, that agreement.

And when your fellow man approaches you, or your fellow woman approaches you, saying, “agree with my concept of me,” you must dare to be conscious and alert. You must dare to love, so that you can say, “no, I disagree. You'll have to find someone else, because I insist upon seeing the Truth here.”

This is the way you end the special relationship, by refusing to join with another at the level of his or her illusion.

And what helps you to discern what is illusory and what is Real, is your willingness to become still, to go within, to experience the peace of your Being, to abide in it as consistently as possible, so that you begin to become acquainted with yourself at a level deeper than the surface reactive level of your awareness, that you have treated as though it were the only level.

The most direct route to your fellow man, is right through the center of your being, because that's where you find yourself, and in finding yourself you find your fellow man as well. With feeling you find your fellow man, not with a bunch of intellectual theorems and concepts. Such an approach, would constitute a very different you, from the you you embrace everyday and treat as real.

You know, the statement is, "behold, I stand at the door and knock," and everyone calls out the militia to get rid of the intruder, that which would upset the status quo. change does not have to be strenuous, but if it is resisted, it will hurt. And when you realize that the pressure for change that you feel, is always the pressure of your Divinity, like the center of a flower that pushes out and causes the flower to open. If you recognize that the pressure you feel is the pressure of your Divinity, you will stop resisting it, and more gracefully experience blossoming.

The conservatism you see, and the strenuousnesses that you observe happening in your world, are not something to make judgments upon, but to have the patience to abide with, so that you might have the opportunity to grasp what the underlying movement is, that is causing the ego to be alarmed. And the underlying movement is never the devil, it's always the Christ.

Again, there's only one thing confronting you, it is the Kingdom of Heaven and the Movement of God, either seen correctly or through a glass darkly. Everyone rejoiced at the fall of the Berlin Wall, and the spontaneous actions that led to it's fall. I assure you that East Germany and Russia did not perceive it as the Movement of God—the Movement of God in the hearts of the people, and the yearning for the experience of freedom, that they knew was their birthright. And not even the people planned their spontaneous Movement. Not even the people in Los Angeles calculated the spontaneous Movement.

People need to dare to embrace their world, to be with it and find the God in it, the Presence of God in it. So, instead of saying, "look at everything that's wrong," wonder what the right is, that's illuminating the wrong and bringing it to the surface. Let's not hang crape, because of a misunderstanding of the Movement of God.

The only thing that can uncover the valuelessness of darkness, is light. And the only thing that can uncover the impracticalness of conservativeness, is freedom. Love the Movement. There is a statement, "why stand aghast at nothingness"? Are you going to look at a half empty glass, or a half full glass?

Start looking for the Movement of God, and you will sooner be able to rejoice and lend your weight on the side of Right—with a capital “R.” And Right—with a capital “R”—will take you, and everyone else, beyond the polarities of the limited vision, by providing an new vision that resolves the polarities of the old one. But if you’re going to stand aghast at nothingness, you are just going to feed the problem.

Look for the kernel of Truth in what is happening, and you will be able to share it, and it will be able to be recognized by those who are experiencing the dilemma, and it will dissolve the dilemma. The world needs more people who are recognizing the good that is happening in the apparent upheaval. It is what will encourage them to look for the good in the unrutting that is going to continue to occur and even perhaps anticipate it by being curious, so that then, it isn’t resisted, and can be more graceful. There need to be those who can teach others how to be gracefully in the midst of Movement, or change.

I don’t have to enlist you, because you’re already enlisted. I’m just saying, be aware that you are here, and you are here for a reason, and the reason is to be Conscious. And by virtue of being Conscious, promote greater grace as everything that you have ever wanted comes into view. That’s the end of the answer.

QUESTION: I have a two part question. I don’t understand all of the talk about the ego, it evidently is something that is rather negative. But who or what created the ego?

And then secondly, you mentioned a number of times about a need to wake up, and that we are asleep. Who or what... how did this sleep begin? And is it something like a “Midsummer Nights Dream,” where we were given a potion? And how and when did all this ignorance begin and why?

ANSWER: Now you know why I picked her.

There is something in the very debts of each one of you, that says that pain, suffering, grief, loss, lack, misery and on and on, do not represent essential fundamental realities of life. If you did not feel that, you would never take any steps to contradict or overcome those things. You would embrace them as aspects of the essence of existence. You would embrace them and you would not experience them as uncomfortable or undesirable.

And so, every man and woman and child reaches for something beyond those experiences. Now is this reaching beyond just some organismic mechanical response, or is it because there is something essentially Divine about every single one of you, and you know it, and you know that your birthright is greater than what you are experiencing. I will tell you that it is the latter.

So, how is it that you have come to have an experience with elements in it that do not represent the Truth about existence? It is not really as complicated as one might think. And it is important for all of you to know that the sense of sin

and guilt that has been attached to it, or associated with it, doesn't represent Truth either.

I'm going to put it very simply. As Consciousness or Mind—as a shall I say, a mental being, not even a mental being—but as mental being, as the conscious experience of being conscious, you are as I mentioned earlier fourth-dimensional—Mind Being that which embraces the first three dimensions.

Now the simple fact is, that it is possible for you to experience the one and only thing going on, the Kingdom of Heaven, or Reality, the Movement of God, from any one of the four dimensions. And the choice to view it from a perspective other than that which is natural to you, does not constitute an error, or a sin, or a state of defiance of God. Everyone simply has the opportunity to explore or experience the one thing that is going on from more than one vantage point.

However, when one, shall I say, shifts from the fourth-dimensional perception, to the third—which is accomplished by identifying with and as the body, that is the visibility and tangibility of your specific identity—as that shift of identification occurs, all of a sudden you see things differently. You no longer see yourself as embracing it all. You no longer experience yourself as the infinite Presence that is infinitely identified as All That Is. And you feel like one little part of All That Is, that is in the middle of infinity. And indeed, that's an interesting experience.

But because of the sense of tininess, and because the Movement of the Kingdom of Heaven is infinite, and therefore, this infinity that is around you is constantly moving, you feel vulnerable. Now, the reason you feel vulnerable, is not because you are in the wrong place, it is not because you are feeling disobedient, it is because you are not in your natural state of Mind. It is like being off balance, it won't kill you, but it isn't comfortable.

If one doesn't recognize that the feeling of imbalance is a reminder that you are not at Home—that you are not in your normal state of Mind—and you remain there in the partial view, you begin to feel a need for self-protection. And because there is a certain sense of integrity that you have brought with you, there is a sense of your being able to be equal to whatever threat there might be. And thus, there develops what you could call a valuing of challenge. And the moment you accept the challenge, you're hooked.

The involvement with this frame of reference, this way of seeing, this sense of oneself being in the middle of infinity that is moving, and which may not be moving in a way that is harmonious and to your best interest. You, as I said, take up the challenge, and in the excitement of the ongoing challenge you no longer realize that the uneasiness you are feeling is a simple reminder that you are not in your normal frame of Mind, and there is Home to go back to. You forget about Home. And you become engrossed in living life from a limited perception.

And that is where you are, in a limited frame of reference, that does not constitute a sin, that is not deserving of punishment and which calls for a simple thing, remembering Home. And remembering that you are not guilty for indulging in the partial view. And therefore, there is not a penalty that has to be paid before you can return Home.

Now, there is an element here that I have left out, which I will now bring into the picture, and that is, that in order to move into the limited frame of reference—the third-dimensional frame of reference—and remain there, you must find someone to do it with. You must find someone who will agree with you about what you are experiencing, and who will agree that it is real, and with whom you can enjoy a certain camaraderie. And that joining becomes a marriage, if you will, it involves a commitment. And as long as the two of you maintain that commitment, you will be effectively blocked from returning Home, because if you do, without the agreement of your partner, you will be letting your partner down.

Again, none of this constitutes a sin, even though I have, let us say, “in modern terms” just described to you what has been called the fall of man, to which the judgment of sinner has been attached, and that, indeed, you are unworthy of returning Home. The longer you remain in the partial point of view, the more confining it becomes, and the more it insists that there is no out for you, there is no way out, there is nothing to get out to.

So no, it didn't take a potion. It just took a curiosity, we will say, to experience a partial view of infinity, and join with another in agreement as to the concept that what is being experienced is all there is. That is why it is so important to join with the Holy Spirit, or to join with the Father, or to join with me, with someone or something that is totally Awake, not bound by any of the perceptions that you are experiencing from the partial view. Because your reference point then is larger, your anchor is anchored in the undistorted Conscious experience of Being, providing you a life line to follow when it is difficult for you to recognize the way.

You must understand that what has held you in bondage, is the sense of guilt that follows the sense of disobedience, which follows the experience of vulnerability. After all, you did it! You chose! It's your fault! You're guilty! You deserve the penalty! So now, serve your term, and then maybe, maybe, by the grace of God you will be able to get back. This concept has bound you, and that is why I am sharing with you your innocence, this is why I am confirming it to you.

The ego is simply the sense of yourself that you acquire from observing yourself and your interaction with the world from this limited perception, this three-dimensional only frame of reference. You say, “this is me. That is not me. I am me. She is not me. I am here. That is there. I cannot feel the wall over there, but I can feel the chair here, therefore there is space, and I can't possibly be connected with that, but I can be connected with this,” and on and on and on.

As you begin to gather this kind of data, you develop a picture of yourself, and you also develop behaviors in dealing with it, and all of these become glued together, if you will, into a sense of your identity as a body, and as a finite separated entity. That is what I am referring to as the ego. It is a distinct sense of who you are, that does not take into account the infinite Consciousness, or Mind, that you Really Are, that which is identical with, identical to the Father, that which is the Father, the infinite Mind, the infinite Intelligence, and constitutes your Real Identity.

And so, in order to wake up, in order to remember Home, in order to escape the apparently real confines of the three-dimensional only frame of reference, you need to hear from someone who can help you give yourself permission. You need to hear someone tell you of the Truth about you, so that it might take on more substance than your faith in your current sense of yourself, who can tell you of your innocence, so that in the face of your obvious guilt—from your point of view—you may say, “if I am the Child of God, I must be guiltless. And it is as inappropriate for me to suffer from guilt, as it is for me to suffer from pain, or disease, or loss, etc.

Now, the only time your limited point of view becomes, as the Course says, an attack on God, is when you begin to remember the Truth about you and feel it, and then insist upon consciously ignoring it. But you know what? It still doesn't make it the truth. And therefore, you still haven't sinned. And you are still therefore guiltless. And still the only thing that is called for, is giving yourself permission to wake up, giving yourself permission to abandon paying the penalty, that could only seem to be valid, because you are indulging in a partial view, a limited perception of the Kingdom of Heaven.

My life, said, you are my brothers and my sisters, if you have seen me, you have seen the Father, therefore, if I have seen you, or if you have seen you, you have seen the Father, you are guiltless. There are those who thought I was a rebel rouser. There are those for whom my simple presence was unsettling to the point, that the best decision that could be come to, was to get rid of me. But I was guiltless.

The ego can always find justification for protecting itself from that which threatens it, but it never makes it true. And the reason your prisons are full of “the guilty ones,” is simply because no one knows how to approach them in a way that uncovers to them their Divinity, so that they don't continue to identify themselves inappropriately and behave in a self-protective manner that hurts others. The only reason one has his body cut to heal him, is because no one knows how to heal yet without injuring further. But it isn't the ultimate, it is just an expression of current ignorance. You shoot a horse, because you do not yet know how to save the horse. Not because it is the appropriate thing to do to the poor horse. I'm not trying to make you feel guilty.

So, I am here, and the Course is here, to confirm to those who are responding to an inner movement, that is uncovering to them an inner conviction as to their Divinity and as to their guiltlessness, so that you might abandon the sentence you are giving yourself of guilty, and of having to pay for your guilt. If you knew that you were not guilty, you would not defend yourself, you would not behave in a defensive manner, you would all become much less offensive, much more lovable. Society would change, and the change would be greater than the sum total of the individual parts, because the conscious embracing of your innocence as a fact, and your curiosity to experience it as a fact, is the leaven that leavens to whole lump.

As I said earlier today, it's the withdrawal from joining in the dream, joining in the ignorant view point. And as withdrawal from it occurs, break down of the elements of the dream, or the ignorance occurs, and revelation begins to spontaneously happen.

And that's how the fall is undone. Everyone has needed to know for a very long time, that the fall could only have been conceived of as a fall from a limited perspective, because the Father looks on each and every one of you and sees His Self-expression.

And if you are having a little fantasy of incompleteness, it does not bother Him, because it doesn't change what you Really Are. And therefore, you are not held away, you do not have to pass a test to come back Home consciously. And that's what you need to understand, that you can indulge in a fantasy through the use of imagination, and it does not constitute a sin, and even if you believe that your fantasy is the truth it doesn't change what Truth is. And therefore, nothing, no-thing has occurred, which requires retribution.

God is not the least bit confused. Your essential Being, the infinite One that you Are, is not confused. And Reality, the Reality of you, and the Reality of God, is pressuring you by insinuating itself into your Conscious Awareness to once again embrace yourself as innocent, and as Real, and as far more than what you are currently experiencing and calling you. The essence of you is present at this moment, in what you call your limited sense of self. It is!

And as you learn of, through experience, the more of you that is present, you will not find yourself dropping anything except a misperception. The body will not disappear, the universe will not disappear, your misperception of it will. Your sense of it being constituted of independent parts will vanish, and you will experience all of it in it's Unity, it's Moving Unity. And as impossible as it may sound to you, you will experience yourself in all of it, it will all be you.

If you, as you sit in this room, were to close your eyes, you would still experience the seat you are sitting in, you would still experience your body, you would still experience the sound, but you would not experience the sight of it. Well, could that constitute a sin, punishable by death and suffering. No! It does

constitute a limitation, you could say one fifth of your senses are gone, not available to you. But because you closed your eyes, you can open them again, but no one is going to tell you that you have to. No one is going to tell you that you have to wake up. You see, your free-will cannot be overridden, you have to open your eyes because you want to. After all, you were the one that closed them. And there is nothing wrong with having them closed, divinely speaking, except that you experience a form of limitation, that it is not your birthright to experience.

As you go home today, the thing I want you to have foremost in your mind, is the fact that you are not guilty of anything that you must pay a penalty for before you can reaccess your Right Mind, your experience of the Kingdom of Heaven. Again, you are neither behind the point of perfection, nor advancing toward it. You are at that point, and must understand yourself there from.

When you open up your eyes, you will find that “the fall” never happened, as a fact. That the limitation wasn’t real as a fact, even though it seemed real as a experience. And that you were always as free to make the choice for your Right Mind, as you were free to make a choice for a limited perception. The fact that you seem to be caught, is simply that you stayed in the limited perception long enough to forget what the lack of balance meant, the uneasiness. And you began to take it on as a challenge to be overcome, instead of a simple reminder that you were not in your natural frame of Mind. If anything, that would call for compassion on our part, not judgment.

This gives all of you great justification for desiring to know the Truth about everything. Because the Truth, in spite of what you fear, will not convict you, but will prove your innocence. And therefore, your total freedom to change your mind. That’s all that is called for. Thank you for your question.

QUESTION: Well, since I have a question, I have a two part. One is in your book Graduation, could you tell us how to live from the gift aspect more in our own lives. Do you know what I mean?

And the other is, talking like this the way we do with questions and answers, it’s sort of an intellectual process. Could you show us how to feel that Jesus is present with us when he is?

ANSWER: Don’t belittle the only means you have at the moment to open up to guidance. Indeed, it may seem intellectual, but it is very hard for any of you to express a desire without focusing it with words. And so, let your questions come forth in words, and do not demean it by labeling it intellectual, because what is going to happen next after you’ve asked the question, is you’re going to be still and listen, which is not an intellectual process, but a sensing or Soul process, you might say.

And of course, really the key is to stop asking the question once you’ve asked it. Very often you ask, and then after having asked the question, you list all the justifications behind having asked the questions, and the inconsistencies and

the injustices that have led to your having to ask the question in the first place, and you seldom get around to listening.

Your questions always arise out of some level of uncomfortableness. They arise out of a feeling of lack of some form or another. So you might say, “am I not substantiating the lack by asking or complaining?” No, because the lack that you are feeling is a threshold you are on. If you would imagine being in a corral that is five miles in diameter, and you are somewhere in the middle, and it is hilly terrain, it might seem to you that you could go to the horizon without running into a limit, because you can’t see the fence that is five miles away from you. And as you begin to enjoy your freedom and move about, you find sooner or later that you bump into this fence that was there all along, but which you were not conscious of.

Now, the tendency all of you have when you run into a fence, is to say, “what did I done wrong? Well, I must have created this for myself.” And you will get into a process of blame, blame and self-doubt, self-criticism, etc., instead of simply noticing the fence and saying, “wow, here’s something to jump over, or crawl under, or knock down.” When you are finally feeling a limit, it is not because you have done something wrong, but because you have expanded to the point that you are able to recognize its presence, which means you are at the only place it can be crossed over. Until you got there, you couldn’t violate it,—if I may put it that way—it wasn’t available to climb over, or get beyond.

So, when you come to a place of uncomfortableness, or a feeling of lack of some sort, it is because there has been growth. And your growth has brought you to the place where an apparent limit has come to your attention. Now, just as with this illustration of the fence, when you arrive at this limit, you can see that there is something beyond it. And so, at the very same time that you come up to the limit, you recognize that it’s illegitimate. You recognize that it isn’t really an absolute limit, because you can see beyond it. And so, you have within you the perspective necessary to give you the gumption to disregard what the fence apparently says, which is, “stay inside.”

And so, every time you come up against a sense of lack, you are at a threshold of greater abundance, and the reason you are there is because you have grown. Like a chick who has had lots of room for many, many, many days, no sense of enclosure, but there comes that point where that which protected it, you might say, becomes a prison, it becomes tight, it becomes uncomfortable. What would you think if the chick said, “well, I must have created this for myself. Maybe even in a past life. Whatever it is, it’s my fault.” The necessity at that point is to violate the limit.

You need to begin to have a more positive sense about what your ego wants to complain about and use as justification for continuing ignorance. So, ask your questions. Do not define them as intellectual, and therefore, as that which may lead you further away from what you desire, because your growth has brought you

to the point where this apparent limit is. And therefore, as I said, you are at a threshold of growth. And if you will refrain from the reaction that the ego would bring into play, you will find that the gumption is there that is sufficient to get over the fence, to dishonor it, and move on.

Now, there is only one way you can get into the gift giving mode, and that is to care enough to love. And you really only have one thing that you can give, the willingness to recognize that which is Real in each and everything. You are either giving that gift, or you are withholding it. And if you are withholding it, you are engaging in judgment. And although everyone else is likely to say that your practice of judgment against them hurts them, I will be very frank with you, the only one it hurts, is you, because everyone else is responsible for how they are choosing to see you, and whether they are giving the gift of love. And if you all join each other in judgment, and are withholding the gift, you will be a miserable lot together. And you will seem to reinforce for each other, your point of view. You will seem to substantiate that love is not what is called for, but defense. And there is only one thing that will break that dilemma, and that is someone daring to make the gift, someone willing to recognize that which is Real, with a capital “R.” I mean by that, the essential Divine essence of whatever they are looking at.

You know, you get things backwards, and it’s understandable. Everyone thinks that the gift is for the other person. Everyone thinks that the beneficiary of the gift is the receiver of the gift. But the real beneficiary of the gift, is the one who is giving without a purpose, without an ulterior motive attached to it. Because there is something that happens when you give the gift of love, when you are willing to acknowledge that which is Real in each and everything. First of all, in your willingness to do that, you are being absolutely congruent with the very nature of your own Being, which means that you are not conflicted within yourself. And you are experiencing it while you are engaged in living in your world.

You know what? You cannot give this gift in isolation. You cannot give the gift of love without considering something more than just yourself. It is impossible! And so, the giving of the gift always constitutes a joining. And naturally it constitutes a joining with that which is Real, rather than whatever ego presentation may be sent your way.

So, the first benefit, you might say, is experiencing congruence within yourself. The second benefit is that, in experiencing and Being and embodying that which you Divinely Are—which is the Presence of the active expression of Love—you are withdrawing from the mutual agreement, that everyone has to behave like egos and function in a reactive manner. And in this way, everyone else is blessed, because your withdrawal from that groupness, weakens the mutual agreement of the group. Meaning, that it becomes easier for everyone else in the

group to abandon their conviction as to what everything is. But that is just a side effect.

Now, I say you get everything backwards, because the same thing applies to forgiveness. Everyone thinks that it's the other one who is forgiven, that it is some blessing that you are giving to some poor miserable wretch. Some gift! Because you are still seeing that person as a poor miserable wretch, that your wonderful love is benefiting. That's self-righteousness, actually. And it doesn't do one thing to transform the apparently miserable wretch, or the one with the miserable eyes that's seeing the wretch, out of the wretchedness.

Forgiveness is the withdrawal of judgment on the part of the one doing the judging. It happens when you arrive at a point where you are exhausted from being conflicted within yourself, exhausted from trying to get revenge. Except that you say, exhausted from trying to get justice, and how unjust it is that you can't get justice. It is a point at which you become so tired of the process, that you withdraw from attack, which judgment is. And you are willing to abandon your definition of a Son of God and come to peace within yourself, then you have the opportunity to be the Presence of Love, which says, "I am willing to recognize that which is Real."

If you're willing to recognize that which is Real,--with a capital "R"—it means that something has become active in you, which I referred to yesterday, curiosity. A curiosity to get beyond your very definite definition about that person, and all of the justifications for your definition, so that you might have a new experience within yourself. You must understand that, because Love is never a means of controlling someone else into what you think their good is. Love is never leverage. It is omnipotent. It is all powerful. But it is not power to be used over something else.

You know where the power comes from? The power comes from the indivisibility of the integrity of you, that you are experiencing when you have abandoned the conflicted stance of judgment. That is called invulnerability. And it is called sovereignty. But it is always a sovereignty that does not have to be exercised over something else. It is your experience of such immovable stability, that there is no possibility of threat, and therefore you can stand there present in absolute defenselessness.

Now, what happens? When you are experiencing defenselessness you become a benign presence, no shell around you, and everyone breaths a sigh of relief. Your defenselessness... Your innocence... Who's innocence? Not theirs, your innocence is so obvious that no one else feels any need for defense, or feels a greatly lessened need for defense. And so, they begin to abandon their feeling of their need to be in a stance ready for attack. And if all of this was being recorded on a video tape, it would look as though somebody had done something that

changed everything. When all that happened was, the act of forgiveness. Not a forgiveness that says, “I forgive you for being the bastard that you are.”

Every single one of you until you are Awake, are to one degree or another, protecting yourselves, and thus, acting in an unfriendly manner toward each other. And socially you tend to gather together in groups of, shall I say, equal unkindness. And so, you have some groups that are obviously more unkind to each other, rougher, you might say, than others. And you’re so glad you’re in one that is less rough, a sign of your spiritual progress.

And your process of Awakening, is your process of forgiving, abandoning judgment within yourself, finding it more important to experience your balance and your peace, than it is to get justice. And in the process, truly beginning to see that your degree of unkindness is the same degree as the harsher degrees, it’s just expressed in a different language. And you, as well as those who are functioning at a more intense level of unkindness, are suffering from an unjust imposition upon your recognition of your Divinity, that you are the direct expression of God. Then you have compassion, and your beingness increases, and you do not thank your lucky stars that you are in a less unkind group than someone else, and you will not see yourself as better off than they, and your oneness will become more apparent to you, and you will be more willing to help, you will be more willing to not engage in the judgment that holds everyone else in their feeling of a need for judgment and defense.

And again, I must point out to you, that as each one does this, no matter how little the steps are that are taken, the cumulative affect is always greater than the individual parts that have joined together in the expression of greater kindness.

So remember, forgiveness really has nothing to do with the one who is being forgiven. And it is never a matter of saying, “I love you, and your ego behavior. Keep stomping on me, I love you anyway.” That isn’t what it’s about. “You’re a crotchety old man, but I love you anyway. I know you’ll never change, but I love you anyway.” That’s attack! And you will find that one changing, when you withdraw the judgment, and be the benign presence that undermines that ones conviction that his judgment and his stance of attack is justified.

But again, remember that you’re not doing it to change anyone. It will not work, because it’s your perception that needs to be cleared. It is your choice to have a perception different from God’s point of view, that causes you to experience the Kingdom of Heaven right here, as though it is a material universe, a struggle of an existence, and a place to achieve a sense of integrity and pride, because you have overcome the struggle.

And so, it is you who’s perception needs to change. And because all of this, that is seen in such a screwed up way is really the Kingdom of Heaven, your shift of perception will cause you to see more of the Kingdom of Heaven that it is. And you may stand aghast a little bit, at the miracle that has happened. And more of

you need that experience. To have a miracle to be surprised at. Where something that you knew couldn't change, has changed. And once you realize that the change has occurred, because you have expressed a little willingness to see what is Real, and there has been a little bit of curiosity, and you have withdrawn judgment, you'll begin to get the idea. And you won't try to change anything out there, again. And you will begin to attend, with curiosity, to your own process of becoming more and more congruent with your Being.

The more clear you are about yourself, the more clear you will be about everyone else. And surprisingly enough, the more you will find everyone else being clear about themselves. Now, don't get hung up on who's responsible for the change, else your ego will jump in there and say, "look at what you did. You have wrought a miracle. Good for you! You have moved to a level of lesser unkindness." But we're not talking about moving to different levels of unkindness, we're talking about abandoning that sense of levels entirely, and being the Presence of what you Are, the congruent, indivisible, unconflicted Presence of Love, that says, "not my will, not my point of view, not my pet theories, not my pet concepts, not my highest sense of truth, but Thine be done."

We might as well discuss another point. Waking up is humiliating. Be aware of it from the outset. When the ego is humiliated, the Divine One that you are that is the presence of humility comes forth. Be aware that the very active sense of yourself that you have engaged in and developed and refined over the years, will have to vacate the premises, so that the rightful inhabitant can come forth. And your ego will indeed, feel as though it is being made unimportant. And it will feel as though you are having to abandon yourself. And you will have to abandon it in favor of a Self, capital "S," that you don't have a backlog of memories of. And therefore, it will feel as though you are yielding into something that is not you. And it will feel insecure.

But it is very important for you to understand, that when you arrive at the point where you are in this dilemma, you are like the person who has moved around and experienced his freedom, and come up to a fence that he didn't know was there. You will have the dilemma, because you have grown. And you will also be at a point where your vision goes beyond the apparent limit. You will have a sense of identity that goes beyond the accumulated habit patterns and thought patterns that you have identified as you. And therefore, there will be an accompanying strength, an accompanying conviction of safety, that will allow you to continue forward.

I point this out, not so that you will anticipate hard work, but so that you will not misinterpret any hard work that you encounter, as an indicator that something is wrong, rather that it is just the flaring up of your egos sense of righteous indignity, that it is being ignored and not valued or validated.

You know what? All of you who are students of the Course know that the ego is a defense mechanism, plain, pure and simple. And that's it! Attack it, and you'll loose. The one thing the ego cannot defend itself against, is disregard. That is why Awakening is effortless.

How do you disregard it? You disregard it, by giving your attention elsewhere. And that is why the Course speaks so consistently about joining, joining with the Holy Spirit, joining with the Father, joining with me, joining with those who are acting on your behalf, which I have referred to as guides, who are Totally Awake. You give your attention in a new place, and you do it by joining, especially since the formation of the ego was caused and is substantiated by an active attempt to be independent and different from everything else.

The ego being a defense mechanism, is what you might call, a movement of hate, an act of attack. But we must be careful here, because the words that I just used can seem to personify the ego as though it had a will, as though it had an actual presence. It does not. You give it all the life it has, because you have life in you. And the life in you, is the Life that is God.

The ego, you could say, makes suggestions, just as a hypnotist does. It says, "watch out, he's going to get you. Oh, your mother-in-law is coming over, be on guard." It just whispers in your ear. Now, even those words seem to suggest that the ego has enough presence and intelligence to formulate the suggestions. In actuality, those suggestions are spontaneous awarenesses arising out of ignorance, based upon memory. And it occurs because you are relying upon memory and the past, in order to come to intelligent conclusions about your present.

Now, again, there's only one thing going on at this very moment, at any moment, in any place, and that's the Presence of God being All That There Is. And the only thing confronting you or anyone else, is the Kingdom of Heaven or Reality, whatever word you want to use. When I use the words Kingdom of Heaven or Reality, I'm not talking about a religious sense of the Kingdom of Heaven. I am talking about the actual Presence of an indivisible and therefore, unconflicted First Cause. Which therefore, must be an infinite manifestation of perfection, which necessarily must move or have movement, because it is the act of Creation.

Now, you are confronted with the Kingdom of Heaven, and You who are confronted by the Kingdom of Heaven, are the Christ, are again, not a religious term Christ, but the Presence of this indivisible, and therefore, unconflicted, perfectly harmonious God. And this indivisible, unconflicted, perfectly harmonious God, that is infinite Intelligence, infinite Mind, has withheld nothing of what He is from His Self-expression. Therefore, if you are going to disregard the ego, which it cannot defend itself against, this Kingdom of Heaven, and this Christ that you are, must be leaned into, if I may put it that way, felt into. And you will not do it with your mind. You will do it with feelings.

And for some of you this will be repetitious, but it must be said so that you understand. Feelings are Soul sensings. Reactions or emotions are ego actions. Learn to be distinctly clear about this, so that you do not use the words feelings and emotions interchangeably. Feelings are your Soul capacity—S-o-u-l capacity—to feel the Divine meaning of Everything That Is. Emotions are the egos reaction to all that Really Is, when it doesn't conform, when It—all that it Really Is—doesn't conform to the egos definition of reality. Because, of course, the spontaneous original Movement of Creation never repeating itself, is never going to be able to be pegged by a definition that the ego has given. And therefore, the egos definitions are going to be constantly undermined. And that's why the ego is always uncomfortable.

Now, we have apparently traveled a long way from the question. But we haven't, because all that I have spoken about is the natural outcome of the giving of the gift. It starts by being willing to be the Presence of Love. Which necessarily means, that you must engage in forgiveness, the withdrawal of judgment. And the result of that is the opening of your eyes, and the apparent transformation of your world, and the unavoidable new experience of who you Are.

So, don't ever again, demean your intellectual question. It can open the door to infinity, as long as you don't get hung up on the question, and listen for the answer.

QUESTION: Hi, Raj.

ANSWER: Good morning.

QUESTION: I was listening to a tape that was done at a previous workshop, and there were references on the tape to the fact that we would not be coming back, and that this was perhaps our last round. What I'm wondering is, is that the last round for everybody on earth? Is that the last round for those of us who are closer to graduation, or what? And also, what do we do after that? Do we go get incarnated on some far-off planet out in some other galaxy? Or does that really mean, that we are at the edge of the "happy dream," or Reality, or where and you and the Masters are?

ANSWER: Indeed, this is the last incarnation for everyone. Awakening is occurring. What this means is, that you will not go through a process of incarnation again. In other words, you will not go through a birth process, in which you seem to lose your awareness of Home. And the reason is because,-- and this is the simplest way I can put it—there are more of us—and I am including all of you in the word us—there are more of us who are Awake than there are those who are asleep. Now, let's not become technical in your thinking about this. The simple fact is, that there are not enough joined in the dream of a partial experience of the Kingdom of Heaven, to maintain it any longer. And this

experience of ignorance is weakening. The very fact that you are here today interested in what we are speaking about, is an indication that the dream is breaking up.

And when I speak of Awakening, do not be too limited in your thinking, because I am not referring just to those incarnated on your planet. I am including also those who have passed on, but still are indulging in a partial view of Reality. Everyone is going to wake up, because of a lack of sufficient mutual agreement about the definitions that seem to substantiate further dreaming.

Now, what this means is, that indeed, you will have the opportunity to experience planet earth, but you will not have to go through a birth process to do it, and you will not experience any degree of ignorance in doing so.

What you cannot comprehend, but which I can share with you is: That the undistorted conscious experience of Being—I mean by that, Divine Awakened Being—is at one and the same time universal and specific. Right now you could say that you are experiencing specific, localized awareness. And the reason you feel as though you are inside a huge universe, trapped in limitation, is because you are not accessing your universal awareness, because you are identifying with such fixation on this particular form.

I will tell you, that I could appear right here beside Paul, in a form that you would recognize, like Paul's. I could appear here next to Paul as a body of Light. And even without appearing, I can be here in the sense that you know of being here, and experience planet earth without incarnating, without going through a birth process, and without seeming to become submerged in sensory data, and reaction to sensory data. In other words, I can be here Awake. And what I am here to tell you is, that you can be here Awake. And it is that shift of awareness into being Awake, that you are all currently engaged in, period. And I am confirming it to you, and encouraging you to continue.

Now, although nothing disappears when you wake up, you do not experience it in the way you experience it now, because you are not providing your acquired definitions and meanings to everything, and you are experiencing it from God's point of view. More than that, more than experiencing the world and universe—I will say the material world and universe, as you are currently defining it—more than experiencing it as the Kingdom of Heaven, you will also be experiencing yourself without limit.

And what is important to you right now, will not be important to you then, because what is important to you right now, relates almost entirely to survival. And threat to your survival will not be a part of your conscious awareness, and so you will not be engaged in surviving, you will be engaged in Being. And what will you be engaged in Being? You will be engaged in Being the Conscious Awareness of God. This means that what will get your attention is, the Movement of "Behold I make all things new." You will find yourself—and I must use images

that have meaning to you—riding the crest of the wave of the Movement of Creation, and experiencing yourself as that Movement.

And although you will be able to be conscious of yourself in the universal sense of that Movement, you will also be aware of yourself specifically. Now, when I say that, I mean that, the Individuality that you Are, is identified specifically as your body, but the Individuality that you infinitely Are, is identified as the Creation of God, the infinite Creation of God. And you will find that there will be times when you will—I'm going to say—observe or experience things from the specific vantage point, and times when you will experience it from the universal vantage point. And what this amounts to, is a shift of emphasis. Because when you experience it from a specific vantage point, you don't sacrifice the universal vantage point. And when you experience everything from your universal vantage point, you will not be unconscious of the specific vantage point.

Now, it is not too useful to continue describing this further, because it is not comprehensible at the moment. The key thing in answer to your question is, that instead of engaging in survival, your attention will be involved in riding the crest of the wave of the Movement of Creation. And being conscious of the fact that you ARE the crest of the wave of the Movement of Creation. And you ARE the Creation that is inseparable from the Movement of Creation. It will all be your conscious experience of Being, because that is God's experience of Being. That's the end of the answer.

QUESTION: It is really an honor to be here, with this amazing event.

ANSWER: It is an honor to be anywhere. Let your curiosity be present so that you might experience the Divinity of any place that you are, even in the "Magic Kingdom." Continue...

QUESTION: It seems to me that a lot of things that you've been talking about, on the limits, and the place where you get to humiliation and all that. Like I seem to be in a lot of that place in my life, but I'm lacking direction in two particular areas that are making my life difficult. One is: A relationship with my significant other. And the other is in the form of work. And I was wondering what direction I might take to make these situations in a better way, to fulfill my purpose, cause I feel like I really don't know what my purpose is, and where I ought to be focusing it. Sometimes I think I missed the piece of information that I needed to put it together.

ANSWER: There is a fine line that all of you must walk. Because if you are going to look at everything and be willing to acknowledge that nothing that you see means anything, you can get into trouble, because you can arrive at a point of believing that everything is meaningless. And if something is meaningless, it is purposeless. Everything has meaning, more correctly, everything is meaning expressed, and the meaning is derived from the Creative Movement of God.

The reason for saying, “nothing that I see means anything,” is so you can find an effective means of getting past the meaning you have given to it, and be open to the conscious experience of the meaning, set into motion by the Father. Don’t abandon the meaning that a thing has for you, until new meaning has been revealed that constitutes an excellent replacement. And this is the fine line you must walk in order not to become fanatical, in order not to become intelligent, in order not to become radical to the point where you say, “because this is all meaningless, it doesn’t mean anything if I stepped on this woman’s foot, or bumped into that car, or neglected to give my children dinner last night.” You know what? The Divine will of the Father, always meets each of you right where you are, in language of your present perception, or we could say, in language of your present misperception, because that’s what you understand.

All of you express Love, whether it is totally unconditional or not, you know what love is, you know what it feels like, and you do express it. You cannot say that it is meaningless and that it is nothing, because it isn’t pure unconditional love. It is the clearest expression of Divine Love that you can manage to express, while at the same time, defending yourself against your perception of a hostile world.

What I am pointing out is, that the degree of love, or the degree of intelligence that you are expressing at this moment, even if it isn’t the undistorted Presence of Intelligence and Love that the Father is and that you therefore truly Are, it is still that Divine Love and that Intelligence that you are expressing. What you need to do is arrive at a point where you no longer believe that the intelligence or love that you are expressing, is the totality of the love or intelligence that you have to express.

Then you can dare to say, “nothing that I see means anything,” and you can be willing to let go of your confidence in your definition of it. You can dare to let go of your definition of intelligence, and your definition of love, and your definitions of responsibility, in order to experience an influx of inspiration, of revelation that can replace your current definition of those things.

Now, Paul can verify this. The fact is that just because you have a revelation of truth, doesn’t mean that you are immediately willing to embrace it. It doesn’t mean that your problems are suddenly solved. Why? Because the revelation of Truth requires you to give up some of your beliefs, some of your ignorance’s that you have loved and been comfortable with. And you release them slowly, you argue and you fight for that with which you are familiar. Indeed, there is a greater need for some of the adventurer explorer attitude, where there is a curiosity to experience the new.

Now, I will tell you that the first thing you need, relative to both of these areas of your life, is your peace, your fearlessness, your ability to be minus the experience of fear. I’m aware that under the circumstances, the circumstances

seem to call for fear, uneasiness, self-doubt, the tendency to blame the situation on yourself, rather than, as I said earlier, to recognize that you are at this point because of growth. And you are therefore, at a threshold of a clearer view of Reality, and a clearer experience of yourself.

This seems like a ridiculous time to take the time to find your peace. There seems to be urgencies to be attended to. But if you attend to the urgencies unconsciously, because you're not in your peace, you will do it in a haphazard way. Whereas, if you choose for your peace first, you will do it more gracefully and more quickly.

When you are choosing for your peace, and you sit down to become still, whether you sit in a lotus position, or whether you sit in a chair in a posture of prayer, whether you are prostrated on the floor in abject humility. If you take the time to be still, you will access your peace. And in accessing it, in experiencing it, you provide yourself with a choice, that didn't seem to be available to you, when you were judging according to the circumstances that seemed to need to be met. In having the choice as a conscious experience, you then can make the choice for your peace, and bring your peace with you after the meditation or the prayer, back into your relationship, and back into your practice of curiosity to observe your world reconfiguring to identify fulfillment of purpose called, job, career, employment.

You see, when you all make the choice for your peace and connect with it, even if it is for ten minutes only, for that period of time, that you are experiencing your peace, you are also experiencing your Integrity. And that's more important than you might think. It's important, because when you are out of your peace, and you are in a reactive state, reacting to relationships, or job situations, etc., the trouble in the relationship, and the absence of employment, can seem to reflect upon your Integrity, calling it into question, and creating in you self-doubt, that can't be there when you are experiencing your Integrity.

The value of this is, that you have the opportunity to discover that even if you are unemployed, even if your job situation is teetering, and your well-being and your families well-being seems to be threatened, and even if your relationship is lacking in some way that seems to threaten the stability of the marriage or the home, your experience of your Integrity is still available to you. When you are experiencing your peace, you are unavoidably also experiencing your integrity as intact. This is very important, because it gives you an experience of the fact that your Integrity is unaffected by what your ego defines and those things that give you integrity.

The fact that your Integrity is intact and available to you as an experience, when all of the things are gone, that your ego tells you gives you integrity, uncovers to you your sovereignty, that isn't dependent upon what is or isn't going on in your world. And there is where your security lies. You can tell yourself that

you have integrity till you're blue in the face. You can tell yourself that you are the Son of God, that you are the direct expression of the Father, that the Father has withheld nothing of Himself from His Self-expression called you, and therefore, your integrity is intact, but that will not give you the experience.

If you talk fast enough and hard enough to block out your egos undermining suggestions, you may well arrive at a sense of stability that keeps you going. But it takes a great effort and will to do that, when you're simply becoming still and going within to the peace of you that is ever present, it is this that connects you with your Integrity, that's inviolable, that gives you your peace, that gives you your experience of inviolableness. Then you don't even have to have courage, because every move you make is made from a place of Integrity. When you are being from that place, it will be transformational to the relationship. And you will find yourself spontaneously being where you need to be for your career, or your job to be recognized.

The need here is for your peace, because that is what will help you move gracefully through the seeming limit or lack that your growth has brought you to. It can be a most wonderful and enjoyable experience, if you will do it from your peace, where your sense of your Integrity isn't threatened. More distracting than the relationship and job situation, is the job the ego is doing on you, to call your Integrity into question, because you're faced with these circumstances, that is more wearing to you than anything that is actually happening. That's the end of the answer.

QUESTION: Good morning Raj.

ANSWER: Good morning.

QUESTION: I wonder if you could make a confirmation for me? I have been receiving communion with one who I presume to be my guide, and her name I think is Agnus. If you could just confirm that?

And one other thing: Could you discuss true empathy?

ANSWER: Discuss?

QUESTION: True empathy, as it is discussed in The Course In Miracles, or expand on it.

PAUL: Okay, this enclosure here creates an echo for me, and I didn't understand. The question is, if he could discuss what true empathy means, as it's used in the Course.

ANSWER: Indeed, I can confirm to you that you are in communion and you are not going crazy.

Ah, excellent question. Excellent because the answer is so wonderful.

True empathy, is what occurs when you connect with your fellow man through the center of your Being. Now, I keep talking a lot about the center of your Being and going within, being centered, etc. This is the only place where

God's point of view is available to you. The only place it's available to you is right where you live, right where you are, right where you are being conscious, right where you are experiencing. I'm speaking not of a location, but of the Experiencer that you are, that is the only place where God's point of view can be available to you.

I'm going to give you an example: Paul is expressing true empathy right now, because he's listening within, and he's not listening to you. He's not trying to connect with you. He does not care what you feel. He does not care how, what is being said, sounds to you. He is not trying to help you. He is listening to me. In listening to me, he is able to be utterly appropriate. The result is, that what comes out, you experience as being heard, as being connected with, meaningfully. And this will always be the case with everyone of you, when you approach each other in this manner.

True the day is going to have to come when Paul opens his eyes up, because it's going to be difficult for him to relate to people on the street, when he's bumping into everyone. And he will look odd, but it works for now.

The point is this: Empathy is the experience of touching and being touched by another, without going through the ego to do it. That is what constitutes Real Love. Paul has learned that if he begins to care how you feel, or care how all of you feel about what is happening, he will become exhausted within fifteen or twenty minutes, if he persists in caring. Humanly speaking, his caring about how you feel about what is happening, would be called empathy. But if Paul becomes empathetic, through space to you, and begins to have an investment in what is said and how it will affect you, he will become self-conscious,—with a small “s”—and will not be able to be appropriate, because self-consciousness—with a small “s”—is defense-consciousness, and there cannot be union in defense. That's the simple fact.

True caring, true empathy, is entirely different from the common definition of empathy. Because there cannot be a truly meaningful, transformational, healing, up-lifting connection until one is able to sacrifice one's personal caring for another, which is always just a less unkind defense FOR listening within, in that centered place, to the Divine Knowing that is available, that allows one to be utterly appropriate with his others, which really constitutes ultimately, communion, connection, of being touched in a way that leaves one better off than before.

Normally, empathy is a highly developed form of espionage, of finding out where the weak points and strengths are, so that one can feel safe with the enemy, and have sufficient control over the situation. That's called “caring.”

Now, to keep balance here, there is love present in the caring that everyone does extend to each other, but it gets covered over with defense. And caring, very often, does become an attempt to control someone else into a behavior that doesn't

upset you. And so, I do not mean to undermine, let us say, the best qualities of empathy that are in play, even though the ego usurps it and turns it into espionage.

But you asked what true empathy was, and I am telling you. You will come to a point where you will realize how debilitating caring is, how exhausting it is, because it doesn't constitute communion or Real connection with another. If it debilitates you, you find yourself unable to be available to your fellow man in any capacity, and you will stop doing it.

There are moments during any gathering, when Paul becomes self-conscious, especially when I am talking about him. But he does not indulge in it for very long, because he knows it wouldn't be helpful at all to care what you thought. The gathering would come to an end, and if he tried to force it, he would literally become so exhausted physically that he couldn't continue. That's the end of the answer.

QUESTION: Hi.

ANSWER: Good afternoon.

QUESTION: I feel like I have a problem getting to the truth a lot of the times, like I can see it and recognize it, but there is a barrier of doubt, and despair about not being connected with it, not feeling personal with it. Can you give me some ideas about how to move through the barrier?

PAUL: I'm sorry this is me Paul. Some ideas what?

QUESTION: About how to move through the barrier of doubt?

ANSWER: First of all, instead of engaging frustration, I encourage you to engage in gratitude that you are seeing it or feeling its presence. Because you are not generating that feeling of its presence. It is. And gratitude at experiencing its presence will, shall I say, grease the skids, allowing it to come forth more easily.

I could say that there is a magnetic quality, a law of attraction, that exists between you and the Truth. There is a natural inclination with all of you, for Truth to gravitate toward you. And of course, the reason is, because the disowned unacknowledged part of what you infinitely Are, is still part of you. And it is its intent to, shall I say, demonstrate total unity, so that a little part of you isn't succeeding any longer to hold itself apart, and claim a private personal point of view. And so, this is the reason the ego is always scared, because this insistence upon wholeness, that is characteristic of your Being, is always at work undermining this sphere of ego beliefs, of ego structures, that seem to enclose you and separate you from the infinity of your Self.

If you will understand, that this truth that you are feeling the presence of, that you can see but not seem to get to, is intent upon connecting, breaking through the barrier, and you will engage in gratitude for the fact that you are at least experiencing its presence, you will find that breaking the block. It is frustration, disappointment, self-doubt, and in some cases even self-condemnation, that keep it at a distance.

You see, all of those things that I listed, self-doubt, discontent with yourself, is an act of will, it represents a willfulness. It is part of the shield your ego uses to keep your experience of Truth at a distance. You think that it is a natural and spontaneous and inevitable experience, when things aren't working right. It doesn't feel willful, because interestingly enough, you feel helpless, and that's why you say you are upset. This is the way the ego keeps you in the dark.

Indeed, the need is for more alertness, so that you do not get sucked into practicing doubt, and practicing fear, and practicing frustration, because what you are doing is practicing conflictedness, and that is willfulness. You may not have defined it that way before, but do understand that it takes energy to do this, and it is the result of a choice, because all of you at the very moment that you make the choice for conflict within yourself, have the choice to choose for your peace. And one of the most wonderful ways you have to choose for your peace, is to practice gratitude.

Indeed, there is a wonderful poem, "A grateful heart, a garden is. Where there is always room for every lovely God like grace to come to perfect bloom." A grateful heart. Conflict cannot remain present in the presence of gratitude.

I will say this not so that you can feel better than anyone else, but there are many who have not yet had a conscious experience of the Presence of Truth that even seems like it is at a distance from them. It actually seems nonexistent to them. And I will put it another way, so that there isn't a point of comparison with someone else's point of development. There was a time in your life, when you did not have this experience available to you. And so, rather than engaging in frustration, because you can't seem to get to it, even though you can feel its Presence, let there be gratitude that you know it exists, as compared to when you didn't know it existed as a thing to be felt. And then remember that it's natural, inevitable inclination is to join with you, to penetrate the sense of barrier that separates you from it. Because the barrier is illegitimate. That's the end of the answer.

QUESTION: Good afternoon.

ANSWER: Good afternoon.

QUESTION: I have a question about a business that I have. We have been running it for four years, and we have run into a problem and we now need to know if we should sell it. We have a real decision making process here. And we both pray for guidance and we're not hearing a thing. So we're asking, what's the problem?

ANSWER: No problem. There is simply no action called for at the moment. Sit tight, and do not assume that a decision is called for, or that action is called for at this very moment. I guarantee you that when the answers is appropriate for you to know, you will recognize it. It is not something that you are

so dense that you will miss. The fact that you are not getting a step to take, is because there is no step to take.

I encourage you to continue to listen. But realize that you do not need to listen with a sense of urgency around this issue. And let there be a quiet confidence that when it is time, you will hear it. In other words, it will be presented to you in a way that you will hear, that will register with you.

I also encourage you not to try to hold God to your sense of order, but dare to assume that there is a Divine order that will work perfectly. And I do not mean, a Divine order that will work perfectly in spiritual terms, but that which bears no relevance to the human terms that you are dealing with everyday. The Divine order operates in the human experience, always, in a way that blesses everyone, and is truly timely, so that the blessing is complete. You could attempt to force the issue here, and you could seem to benefit from it, while others who were suppose to benefit from it, do not benefit from it, because it is not happening in the Divine timeliness, if I might put it that way. Wait patiently on God, the saying goes. And trust that you will know what to do and when to do it. Everything is all right. That's the end of the answer.

QUESTION: I asked the question, put my hand up because I felt compelled to. So here I am. I have two questions. One is, I believe you spoke to me several years ago at a healing service, and I wondered if I got the message?

ANSWER: Perfectly, yes.

QUESTION: And secondly, I find that I still experience a lot of anger. And I have...

PAUL: You find what?

QUESTION: I experience a great deal of anger. And I wondered how I could best handle the anger, channel it, or deal with it, live with it.

ANSWER: My dear don't for a minute, plan on living with it! Don't any of you ever justify living with anger, or fear, or pain, or illness. You cannot imagine how many of you are embracing these things, think it is exalting your soul. That is the ultimate of ignorance.

In the first place you don't have a Soul, you are Soul. And your Soul, the Soul that you Are—and I'm not using the word Soul there as a noun, but as a verb—Soul is the sensing capacity of the infinite Mind that God Is. The sensing capacity that you are, is itself the Presence of God, because God is Soul. Does God need to be refined? Neither do you, as Soul. So let us not justify suffering, limitation, lack in any form, as though it is some valid and valuable part of your spiritual growth. This is the way you justify continuing to be asleep, even though the promise seems to be, that it will help you to wake up.

Now, there is something underneath the anger. And the best, let us say, the most wonderful image that I can provide to you to understand this, is the image of a bottle of champagne, pink champagne, which has a cork on it. Now, in your living of your life, ignorant of your Divinity, and basing your sense of yourself upon what others have taught you and what you have observed, you have accumulated misunderstandings that you know are unjust. And because you haven't stopped being the direct expression of God, and because no matter how buried you seem to become in ignorance, you still have and still Are the Presence of Divine Intelligence. You feel deeply the wrongness of these injustices, but mind you, the injustices are an accumulation of misunderstandings within you. And because you feel tiny, your sense of true justice isn't felt in its infinity, but rather as simply a justification for extreme frustration, which is called anger.

You see, as you have accumulated false beliefs about yourself, and used them as part of the definition of your identity, you have become more and more self-protective, more and more defended. And in doing that, you have blocked the flow of something, you have blocked the bubbly. Anger, hate, frustration, self-righteousness have formed the cork that blocks the flow of the Love that you Are, thus constricting your experience of who and what you Divinely Are.

Now, here's what I encourage you to do. I encourage you to find a safe place to feel the anger. A place where you will not be told to hush up. This could be with a counselor, or a minister, or a good friend. Find a place where you can feel it, because as you let yourself feel it, it is the equivalent of the cork beginning to emerge from the bottle. As you feel it, you do not energize it, it is when you repress it that you energize it and in effect make the cork fatter, and thus stuck more firmly in the neck of the bottle. If you will feel it, the cork will soften, you might say, and diminish in size, and the pressure of the bubbly, the pressure of your Divinity will spontaneously cause the cork to pop out.

And where you had been feeling anger, you will find a transformation occurring—it is what they call, in psychology, catharsis—where a strong negative feeling is transformed into a strong positive feeling. And the reason that can happen, is because the good feeling is what had been repressed. You think that if you will let yourself feel the anger, that there is so much there, that you will feel it forever, and that's why you block it. But it's just a little cork, I promise you.

Find a safe place to feel the anger. And feel it, because there is not an endless amount of it, there never is with any of you, but you must feel it, in order for it to soften and pop out. You know, most of you wait to do this until a crisis, and then at that point of crisis you give up, and you let it all hang out. And when you do it, you feel awful. You feel like you have come to the bottom of the barrel. You feel the humiliation that I spoke of earlier. But always when you get to that point of giving up and release, through humiliation, a transformation occurs.

Don't wait for a crisis. Don't wait until you're exhausted, to pay attention to what you're feeling. And understand, that any negative feeling that you are having, is just a tiny cork, let us say, on a magnum of bubbly. It is unintelligent for you to feel comfortable when you are stifling the flow of your essential Being.

You see, at the bottom line, you know what is legitimate and you know what is illegitimate. Let yourself feel. Let yourself feel! The cork is an emotional block, blocking your feelings, which are the Soul of you, the You that is Soul. Repress those emotions, and you magnify the ego that you think you are, and you block your capacity to feel, and there is no way to feel comfortable.

What you did not know before you asked the question, is that there is something underneath the anger. And it is not the expression of the anger, that is the point, but the softening of it, so that it might pass off and allow the Love that you Are and the Integrity that you Are underneath it, to come forth. And so, you have been afraid of the fear, you have been afraid of the anger. Don't be afraid of it. Just find a safe place to feel it. And if you think that it might take three days to feel it fully, treat yourself to three days in a safe place, and let everyone else take care of themselves for three days. That's the end of the answer.

QUESTION: These have been two very wonderful enlightening days. Thank you.

ANSWER: You are welcome.

QUESTION: Over population seems to be a major cause of a deterioration and destruction of our planet earth. So many people... there's a controversy over abortion. So many religious groups believe that life begins at birth, and other groups believe that life begins at conception. Would you please address this?

ANSWER: Believe it or not, there is innate order that goes beyond any of the attempts to bring order into play, as a result of conscious control. Do not worry, this planet will not become over populated. Without crisis and without trauma, you will find the birth rate dropping. You will find people being interested in other things than having a family, or an interest in a smaller family. You will find a natural balance occurring. Don't be too quick to assume that catastrophe will happen.

I will put the answer to the last part of your question, simply. There cannot be God without the infinite manifestation of God. There cannot be God without the Presence of God. If you are the direct expression of God, then there cannot be you and no presence of you, no manifestation of you. Where, to be more clear, there cannot be you and no manifestation of the Presence of God, called you. Therefore, there is never a moment when you are not identified and identifiable as the specific expression of God. Therefore, you will never be bodiless, anymore than God will ever be unmanifest.

You say, but so-and-so passed on last week, and we buried her body. No, you buried the last image of her body that you saw. I realize it is an over simplification, but everyone buries the after-image, while the Individuality, fully identified, continues on. The moment there is the presence of form, in other words, the moment the first cell division occurs, the Individuality is present. At that moment, the whole of that Individuality is present, and from your point of view, it is coming into view.

Now, if Paul were to go outside the door, so that the door blocked him, but he could still enter the room, and he were to stretch out his arm so that his finger tip was the first thing you see, you would wonder what on earth is this creature. This finger tip is like the first form at the point of the first cell division after the sperm and the egg meet. Doesn't look like an individual, does it? And if Paul were to continue to come in slowly, you would begin to see this hand, and a long funny looking thing, you wouldn't know what it was yet. The point is, that although your view of him would come in a strange way, the whole of him would be there on the other side of the door. And your asking whether the Soul comes into the body at the point of birth, is like saying, when did the whole Paul arrive. The whole Paul was there when you saw the finger tip.

Now, I gave a very definitive and wonderful answer to the issue of abortion in the workshop in Charlotte, North Carolina, two weeks ago. And I am not trying to sell tapes, but rather than take the time up here, I would encourage you to get the tape. I will simply tell you, that abortion can only be conceived as appropriate, if you think that you are nothing but a body. It can only seem to be justifiable, if you think that God has nothing to do with life. If however, you think that God does have something to do with life, then all life is valuable. And if indeed, you assume that life is valuable, because it is the expression of God, then if that particular expression seems not to be congruent with your life, you will be curious to discover the life affirming alternatives you have available to you.

I will tell you something else, if everyone truly respected life, by understanding that God is the Source and condition of life, there would be fewer unwanted pregnancies, and fewer occasions for the idea to arise to have an abortion. You would find yourself in the right place, doing the right thing, and what wasn't congruent wouldn't happen. Enough said.

But, I encourage all of you to listen further, and instead of seeing what I have said, as denial of free choice, you see it as an opportunity to find, what I'm going to call, socially responsible, life affirming alternatives to abortion. You will all contribute to some social change, that is greatly needed. That's the end of the answer.

QUESTION: In the same vein of over population, we find ourselves deluged with information about the toxicity of air, food, water, mans irresponsibility on the planet. What is my personal response to be, not as a

fear response as we move forward, but what's happening and what should I be doing about that?

ANSWER: Be conscious of the need, and whatever little part you can play in not polluting, play it. To tell you the truth, it comes down to a matter of honoring your world.

This is as good a time as any for me to say something that needs to be said, especially to students of The Course In Miracles. When you read in the Course that the world is an illusion, it is much the same in impact as the first lesson, "nothing that I see means anything." The purpose of those two statements, is not to convince you of the meaninglessness of the world, and the universe, and your body. And if you actually become convinced that it is, and begin to take it as a doctrinal point of A Course In Miracles, there will continue to be a degradation of the honoring of the world, and the universe, and you will have even further breakdown.

There is something going on here. And if indeed, God is omnipresent, there is no space for an illusion to exist. Therefore, what is called an illusion, must necessarily be a delusion, a misperception of something Real. And the point is, for you to arrive at a point where you are willing to say that, "this doesn't mean what I thought it meant. And from my limited point of view, I do not have the perspective necessary to understand or experience what it does mean. And therefore, I will relinquish my belief as to what it is, and stand in the void of not-knowing, so that its meaning can be revealed to me."

I mentioned earlier, this thing about gravitation, that there is a natural attraction of Truth to you, and you to Truth, because you in fact are inseparable. And your unity is what is constantly asserting itself and undermining your ego definitions and perceptions.

All of you have been taught to value knowledge. Knowledge is a noun, knowing is a verb. God is all Knowing. It doesn't mean that he knows all, it means that knowing is what constitutes the Presence of the Father, the action of knowing Himself. And God saw everything that He had made, in other words, he observed His infinite Movement, "and behold it was," the bible says, "very good." And I am changing the words, "and behold it was verily God," God recognizing the Movement of Himself, is Life, You being the conscious recognition of infinite Self, are Life, the Movement of Creation.

So be careful. Relationships are not meaningless. Bodies are not meaningless. The world is not meaningless. The universe is not meaningless. But it doesn't mean what you think it means at the moment. And when you define it falsely, and believe your misperception to be true, then indeed, you are observing something that isn't real. You are in a state of insanity, or delusion. What does that mean? It doesn't mean you have another reason to kick yourself around the block. It means that the opportunity to experience Sanity is all around you. The

opportunity for something greater than such a limited perception that hides your experience of yourself in your Right Mind.

I will say it again, you are not a body, but you are not bodiless. You will never be unidentifiable. What will happen is, that your identity, being individual, will never again suggest the Presence of anything other than God. And yet you, as an individual conscious experience of Being, will not disappear. Again, this is as impossible to grasp intellectually, as grasping the fact that you can be infinite and specific at one and the same time is not possible for you to grasp intellectually. But it is a fact.

The saying is that no one likes being a statistic, because everybody feels that he or she is absolutely original. So, how can you possibly be governed by a statement that says, “most accidents occur within twelve and a half miles of your home.” As though that’s the most dangerous place for you to drive, and you’d better not drive there.

It is very difficult for the ego to fit into anything. And mankind in its ego sense of itself, has become arrogant enough to feel that it doesn’t have to blend in or participate in nature, mankind is here to control nature. The Indians knew better, and they saw God in everything. The mountain was the dwelling place of the Holy Spirit, and a lake was the face of the Holy Spirit, etc. And they knew how to cooperate with the whole.

And so, what you are faced with here is realization occurring, it is dawning on mankind as a whole, that they are part of a whole world, and they must blend with it, because that is the way in which unity, wholeness and healing are to be experienced. You are watching mankind discover that it has been arrogant, thoughtless, when there was a need for the honoring of the whole of life, a conscious participation. And you are going to see a turn around, and you are going to see healing of the planet, of the holes in the ozone, and an end to the wholesale dismembering of the rain forest on the equator, and indeed, the inappropriate wholesale cutting of lumber in your own country.

But again, the ego doesn’t like to have to be part of something. If it’s going to be part of something, it will be part of a small group, so that there is still “them” and “us.”

And this is another reason that I am currently making a point of addressing students of the Course, so that you do not begin to think in terms of being a group called, students of A Course In Miracles. “We believe this, and we believe that,” etc. You cannot afford to forget that you are part of a group called, for lack of better words, the Brotherhood of man, the Family of man, the infinite expression of God. That’s the group you’re in. And the only value there is in the Course, is if it helps you be a member of the Brotherhood of man more lovingly and efficiently.

You cannot selectively be willing to recognize that which is Real in each and everything, can you? So there cannot be a boundary, with someone on the

other side, and someone on this side. And I also encourage you not to form churches, Course In Miracle churches. What's the first thing you will have to do if you organize a church?

QUESTION: Defend it.

ANSWER: You don't have anything to defend yet though. The first thing you will have to do is write, "we believe," and list what you believe, as opposed to everyone else. Then you will have to defend your beliefs.

Being a Brother and a Sister isn't a belief system, it's something Real. And seeing the Christ in your Brother and Sister, is the gift that is called for. Why? Not because the world needs it, but because as I said earlier, it brings you into congruence with who you Divinely Are, and allows revelation to occur, that does indeed bless everyone, and helps to lift the veil of what. Ignorance! You get the point. That's the end of the answer.

QUESTION: I working on meshing the acknowledgment that I'm at this point of perfection and understanding myself from it...

PAUL: I'm sorry, the way the sound is booming, I'm having a hard time understanding what you're saying.

QUESTION: Closer? I'm working on meshing the acknowledgment that I'm at the perfection of my Being, and understanding myself from it, with finding the identification of the fulfillment of my purpose, in a job. I've been unemployed since October. I'm an attorney or was an attorney in civil litigation, which seems to be contrary to the words of The Course In Miracles. And secondly, in relationship, which I would very much like to have a holy relationship, rather than a special relationship. Any comments?

PAUL: This is me Paul. May I ask in what way you find being in civil litigation, inconsistent with the Course?

QUESTION: The way I'm seeing it is, it's based upon judging other people as being right or wrong. There's usually a victim involved or the perception of someone in the role of victim. It's based upon monetary considerations in finding an answer. And a conclusion that everyone would win with, rather than a winner and a loser, which seems to be the case in legal system.

ANSWER: You see, you do not have a legal system, for those who are law abiding. You could say that I was not a nice guy when I whipped the moneychangers out of the temple. There is a necessity to be the Presence of Love that says, "I will not join with you, not even by being silent and affirm your unintelligent, unloving, unprincipled acts." To be unconditionally loving, does not ever mean to become a doormat.

Indeed, the question was asked at the break, where it says that in the Course that, “perfect peace opposes nothing.” Well, good luck everyone! Perfect peace also, doesn’t embody and express unintelligence.

All of you who have raised children, how many of you from experience, would say that it would have been much better to allow the children to do everything they ever wanted without objecting, so that you might, in consistency with the Course oppose nothing. Don’t forget to be real.

Truth and peace know when to say, “No! Thus far and no farther.” Intelligence recognizes unintelligence, and does not allow it to elaborate or embroider itself into a larger expression of unintelligence. Your laws, when practiced intelligently, say “no” to those who through their ignorance, feel a right to take advantage, to consciously take advantage at the expense of another, of someone else. And if you do not say “no” to unintelligence, you will have to live with the unintelligent result. And you cannot assume that because you are saying “no” to that which is unintelligent, that somehow you are not practicing unconditional love and you are failing in the truth. You know, that someone who knows of a crime, an aggressive act of unkindness, someone who knows about it and keeps their mouth shut, is an accomplice.

Are you going to join with the ego, or are you going to join with your capital “B” Being, or with the Holy Spirit, or with the Father? Until you have something better than the legal system, until you have something better that works, don’t abandon the legal systems. It is the greatest expression of principle that is conceived at the moment. This is very important to understand.

If you go off in a fit of spiritual ecstasy, and abide by principles—as you term them—that do not meet the human need, you are becoming idiots. Don’t abandon the common sense you currently have, until you have better common sense. I said that yesterday. Somebody want to make a bumper sticker? It says, “the Christ is not a wimp.”

You sense into your capital “K” Knowing, and you will discern what is appropriate and what is not appropriate. And you will not join with that which is not appropriate, and you will not remain absolutely silent in all cases and allow the inappropriate to go on unobjected to. If you are listening you will know when you are called upon to be the one to stand and say, “no.” And you will not interpret yourself as being judgmental.

If there is a bowl of fruit here, with apples, oranges and grapefruit, and the person next to you says, “would you get me an apple.” Well, how are you going to manage to do that? You’re going to have to be able to tell the difference between an apple, orange and grapefruit. Is your capacity to recognize the difference between the three, judgment, or discernment? Does picking the apple, mean you are putting-down the grapefruit and the orange? No! In your peace you will

discern the difference between what is True and what is not, and you will act on the basis of what is True.

Many of you who are parents, know that your saying “no” to your child caused great learning to occur, and saved them a great deal of grief, that they otherwise would have experienced if you had said nothing. You simply cannot sit there and allow your child to play with a bobby pin and a light socket. And it doesn’t even matter whether the child understands or not, all he has to do is get the message. You might say, “why, I don’t want to control his life. I don’t want to influence his free expression. I don’t want to stunt his curiosity.” You’re going to let him do it for himself. What I am saying is, be Real, be grounded as you apparently grow spiritually, as you wake up.

Those who out of extreme lack, extreme fear, an extreme self-depreciation, engage in acts of violence and attack against their fellow man, need to be enlightened. But before you can enlighten that one, you must get his attention. And you get his attention by saying “no,” so that he will engage in argument. Once he’s engaged in argument, his violent actions have stopped, and you can begin to use reason. But you’re going to have to care enough to hang in there, while he gives you all the arguments, as to why what you’re saying is useless.

And don’t think that Paul and I have not had many a conversations of that sort. You’ve got to care enough to say “no,” and not agree by silence, with that which substantiates the apparent need for ignorance and defense. And so, your work is not inconsistent with the Course. Because the Course has told none of you to be martyrs, to agreeably and wonderfully say, “stomp on me, I love you. I have learned how to be at peace, while I am in pain.” If you’re in your peace, you either will not be in the place where pain can be experienced, or you will be in that place as an agent for change. And if you are going to be an agent for change, you are not going to be standing in agreement with what is happening.

I encourage you to look more deeply into this feeling that you are having of the inconsistency of your profession, and what you are learning from the Course. It’s perfectly clear to me that law firms can be corrupt also. But that doesn’t make law and it’s appropriate practice something illegitimate. And you can manage to find a place to work where there is little corruption.

But as long as you are living with and working with those who are not Totally Awake, there are going to be discrepancies in their expression of Integrity. You can be there expressing with love and not judgment, your Integrity. And you can bring that Integrity into the court room.

You want to know something? A win-win situation is marvelous, but you can’t have a win-win situation when both parties do not agree as to what winning means. And someone who is insistent upon a limited and harsh assessment of what life is and how one ought to behave, you are not going to get win-win, unless

he gets what he thinks he wants, which is what brought about the problem in the first place.

In the court room it is not your job to rehabilitate the one who is deeply imbedded in his false sense of things. It is only your task to be clear in expressing “no” to behavior that hurts. Do not cringe from that responsibility, and do not see it as being unChrist-like. To say, “what you are doing is unacceptable,” does not involve judgment on that individual. If you say, “what you are doing is unacceptable, you bastard,” that involves judgment, and is what is inappropriate. If you say, “what you are doing is unacceptable and inappropriate, and if you would like to learn another way in which you will win, I will be glad to work with you,” that is where the solution lays. However, that is not your job, you are not a therapist or counselor, you are an attorney.

So don't be afraid to be that point where the “no” is clearly stated, where there is a fair chance of that persons attention being gotten. So, that someone else can appropriately come in and say, “I perceive that you have capabilities far beyond anything you are using at the moment. And I perceive that you have the capacity to live with a lot more fulfillment than you are currently experiencing. How would you like to explore those capacities and possibilities with me? Again, the message is, the way you have been doing it, is not right, doesn't work, is impractical. But that doesn't represent you. And I want to talk to you about other ways that work, that you will like.” It still holds the individual in his innocence and honors his capacity. And for him to be confronted by this, over and over again, even if he is in jail, will cause him to begin to feel some inspiration.

So, again, you have put a lot of energy and a lot of yourself into arriving at the point of being an attorney, and a good one. Don't overthrow it casually just because you cannot at the moment, or have not been able to reconcile what you find in the Course and your work. And let your question to the Holy Spirit be, “show me, the way in which I can be the Christ right where I am. Help me to understand how the Course relates to something as nitty-gritty and down-to-earth as a court of law, and the practice of law.” They are not exclusive of each other.

I will tell you something else: You have the intelligence and the quickness of mind that is capable of discovering the congruence, and I encourage you to enjoy it. That's the end of the answer.

QUESTION: I feel like trust is a big issue with most people. Can you, would you talk to us a little bit about the difference between trust and gullibility maybe?

PAUL: Trust and?

QUESTION: Being gullible, naive.

PAUL: The question is: Can Raj speak about the difference between trust and being gullible and naive?

ANSWER: It is a good question. The difference is that one who is being gullible and naive is abandoning his or her common sense. Again, it is a matter of walking this fine line between trusting into that which you know nothing about, literally, abandoning what you do know, but not becoming ungrounded in the process. You may be willing to admit that you are experiencing illusion, but you cannot afford to abandon the illusion, as I have already said, until you have some reality to replace it with, period.

Now, there is another thing: You may have developed an ego, but you are not an ego. There is an excellent illustration that will help to straighten things out. You have infinity, or let us say, we have an infinite circle—a very, very, very, very large circle—this circle represents you, it represents your infinite conscious awareness. Everything inside this circle is You. Then somewhere inside this infinite circle, let us say, that we are going to imagine a sphere, like a bubble, about ten inches in diameter. What is inside the bubble is the same stuff that is outside the bubble. The bubble represents the accumulated beliefs and conditionings that you have accepted and created and stored, and which you treat as your clear and complete understanding of what life is about, and who you are.

Because you are only experiencing what is inside the bubble, at the moment, it is very easy for you to say I'm an ego. But you aren't. You are what is inside the bubble, and you are what is outside the bubble. And the bubble is constituted only of belief structures, ideas that have been put together in what you call a logical manner, and this is what you have come to call your identity.

What this means is, that the volume of stuff or air, we'll say, inside the bubble is absolutely Divine. All the bubble is doing is partitioning off part of what is Divine, from the other part that is Divine, and seeming to create a barrier, a limit. Now, if you accept the idea that you are an ego, then everything about you must be false and untrustworthy. And if you believe that, then you might willingly give yourself over to a teacher, a guru, or even a guide, a spiritual advisor, or even the Holy Spirit.

You want to know something? One who is Awake, whether it is me, or your guide, or the Holy Spirit, will not let you give yourself away to us. We will not let you give your power away. We cannot afford to allow you to think that that of yourself which you are experiencing, which is within the bubble, is anything less than what is on the outside of the bubble, because if you think that, you reinforce the bubble.

But, what happens when you apparently, within the limits of the bubble, begin to acknowledge, and rely upon, and lean into that Divine Selfhood that is inside the bubble, what if you honor yourself right where you are within the bubble? If you do that, you begin to be more consciously like everything that's on the outside of the bubble. And because of that, penetration of the bubble can occur more easily.

Now, it doesn't take very much to pop a bubble. So, in terms of your Awakening and experiencing the reuniting of the whole you, it isn't going to take a lot of effort. It takes what the Course calls, a little willingness. And those are key words. It doesn't take a little willfulness, it takes a little willingness.

If you don't go home from this weekend with anything other than the remembrance, that you are not to abandon your common sense until you have something better to replace it with, you will all be safe. You will be unavailable to be used by those who are self-seeking, spiritual self-seekers.

You will only be gullible if you neglect to pay attention to yourself, if you neglect to honor yourself. That is why I am telling you, that even within the context of your limited perception of things, you must understand that you are the Christ, that you are the direct expression of God, nothing more and nothing less. Again, you are neither behind the point of perfection, nor advancing toward it. You are at that point and you must understand yourself there from. You must begin to conceive of yourself there from. Literally, you must begin to have a more immaculate conception of yourself.

The more consistent your Conscious Awareness of your Divinity within the bubble becomes, the less the bubble will be able to separate you, or seem to separate you from what you Divinely are, infinitely speaking. And to acknowledge that you are Divine, and that you are the Son or Daughter of God, and that you are by birthright the Christ Consciousness, the Mind of God having no other point of view than the Father's Mind, that Awareness is your new common sense.

Don't worry, you won't embrace it all at once and overwhelm yourself. But I am encouraging you to nurture that self-awareness, and let the experience of it in, so that you may begin to know the truth about your fellow man, and begin to apprehend him more clearly, and thereby, stand as support for his or her making that shift, because he or she doesn't have to as actively defend himself or herself against your misperception, and your actions that arise out of the misperception, that are a form of attack.

Pay attention to your gut feeling, never abandon it. Your gut feeling will be exalted, as you trust into your Divinity more. And it will begin to reflect greater and greater Divine knowing. But until it does, trust it now, and at each point trust it, and you will not become gullible. Want to know the Truth about everything, but pay attention to the Truth that is revealed from within, or pay attention to the Truth that you hear that confirms what you are already feeling within. The governing factor had better be your trust in your Integrity, even if your Integrity seems to be improved day by day.

You must honor the fact that what is within the bubble is the same thing that is on the outside of the bubble. It is therefore, absolutely Divine. Why do any of you think that you have a desire for such an unreasonable thing as peace, and joy,

and health, and perfection? It's not because of your ego. It's because that which is enveloped by your ego, knows of it's Divinity. The bubble can't ever change the volume within it. It can't change it's nature or character. And that's why your Integrity is intact, and that's why your Divinity is intact, and that's why I can say to you, you are the Christ. And you're not advancing towards perfection, you already know it. But there's doubt that keeps you from committing to it, and yielding into it, and giving up the struggle to prove that you are something worthwhile, and just being worthwhile.

You are to practice trust. Where on earth do you have to practice trust, if it isn't in the only place you're experiencing, which is your conscious experience of Being.

You have been so conditioned from all quarters, to believe in one way or another that you are sinners. Even if you were not brought up in a religion where you were taught that you were born in sin, you have heard about it, the idea has been presented, and your mind makes free associations. And when your teacher told you that you had better not go into math, because you didn't have what it took to understand it, you make spontaneous assumptions, connections, "it must be because I'm a sinner. It must be because I'm less than something else."

And in one way or another you all arrive at an attitude of self-depreciation, rather than self-honoring. And it's time to stop! Your ego will say you are foolish, because indeed you are a fool to believe anything about yourself that is, or that smacks of perfection or Divinity.

Now, I've used this illustration before, but it's pertinent here. It is as though you have awakened in a cell, the door is closed, the jailers parade up and down outside. They curse you, they tell you how horrible you are, how worthless you are, how much you deserve to be confined. And don't you dare try to escape, because you will be caught until you've paid the uttermost farthing. And not one of you has dared to get up and push against the door, so that you might discover it's not locked. And I'm saying push against the door, push against the bubble, and realize that your prison isn't anymore substantial than a bubble. And yet a bubble seems to be an impermeable boundary.

You may have an ego sense of yourself, but you are not an ego. And that of you, which you are experiencing within the confines of the ego frame of reference, the sphere, the bubble, is absolutely Divine, and it is that which remembers Home—in other words, unity—and desires to experience it and gives you unreasonable faith in achieving it. That which is within the bubble does not need to improve itself, it only needs to acknowledge itself for what it is. You do not have a hard road to hoe, in front of you. You are bound by that which is insubstantial and that which is bound by it, is God. It is a flimsy fantasy you are experiencing, and it's getting flimsier by the moment.

So remember, curiosity, a desire to know the Truth, a desire to know the Real meaning of everything. A willingness to set aside your best definitions of yourself and of your world. Every single thing you see everyday, every form you see, as I said, is a light form. You want to know something else? The light is Living Love, it radiates what it is. And at this very moment every single thing that you can see, or touch, or feel is embracing you in the radiance of the Love that it is. So don't try to rise above it. There are those who are talking about getting out of here, others who are talking about flashing out. That's just another form of denial. What you want is to be here and wake up, and see it all as it really Is.

Now, I left out the most important part. Not only is everything that you see made up of the substance of Love that is light, that is loving you, you Are It. And so, when you see and feel the embrace of Living Love, you have the inseparable experience of being that Love, and knowing that it is You Loving. And thus, your unity with the universe and with All That Is, is a conscious experience of unity, not just a head trip. Be careful now with the words I'm going to use. It is a Conscious experience of unity of all space. The word space, is the poor word, but I use that phrase to convey to you the fact, that it is a unity where there are no emptynesses.

Don't believe everything you hear, don't be willing to believe everything you hear, without taking it within and measuring it against your deepest level of knowing of what Truth is. As I said, you all have the inherent capacity to recognize Truth. Why? Because the you that is within the bubble, is the Divine You, who knows Truth. It is a capacity you have not activated, because you have been so busy surviving and suffering from your sense of limitedness, and your sense of worthlessness.

So, start by paying attention to your common sense. Your common sense is your best use of intelligence at the moment. And as you wake up, your intelligence is going to seem to increase. You will not abandon the degree of intelligence that you have been allowing yourself to express. You will never get into trouble this way. It might give your ego a little bit of trouble, but you will never give your power away again, and you will never think that your good is somewhere out there for you. Begin to trust yourself and rely upon your capacity to recognize Truth, and you will never be gullible again, you will never be naive, and you will never be abused. Now that's empowerment!

RAJ CLOSING COMMENTS: It has been a good weekend, and I have enjoyed being with you. And I have said this before to other groups. But I'm glad to have been with you, with you being conscious of the fact that I am with you. And, just because Paul is going to Boston, don't stop being open to the experience of my Presence. Paul won't be jealous.

PAUL: Okay, what a weekend. (Long applause) I love you too.