



UNVEILING THE SPIRITUAL PATH

*Wisdom for Seekers of Truth
at the Dawn of a New Era*

Transmitted by
Great Souls Who Guide Humanity

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Introduction

The purpose of this booklet is to make known certain realities that have been esoteric or hidden until now. The intention of the authors is to convey in plain language the outlines of the journey that brings human beings into contact with members of the spiritual kingdom. In the new era, the relationship between members of these two realms will give birth to a new world on a higher plane of Earth's life.

Students around the globe are commonly taught that the natural world of Earth is composed of 4 kingdoms: mineral, plant, animal, and human. In actuality, there is another kingdom on a plane that is invisible and unknowable until the soul—the higher self of a human being—awakens. The authors of this small book belong to the 5th kingdom in nature—the spiritual kingdom or realm of souls, often conceived as 'the kingdom of heaven,' the dwelling place of the Hierarchy of Light.

What is important to know about members of this higher realm is that they were once human beings and thus they know us intimately. Having preceded us in the scheme of Earth's evolution, they are well prepared to lead us on the journey into the next stage of our own evolution. The text that follows is a guide for the journey of ascent.

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Prologue

This small booklet is an effort to reveal the true significance of the spiritual path within the life of an individual seeker, and within the context of Earth's shift into a higher dimension. It is not a precise explanation of the stages of the path but a presentation of those stages within the scheme of human evolution, from the time of the soul's awakening to the point of entering the next realm in the life of our planet—the spiritual realm or Kingdom of the Soul. It does not contain specific practices for spiritual growth, which can be found in a wide array of teachings, but conveys the importance of this growth for the future of humanity and our planetary life. It offers a framework for understanding the realities of the path of ascent at a time when the lifestream of Earth is ascending to a more light- and love-filled plane of existence.



I. Dissolving the Outer Mask

In all of human history up to the present, there has never been a succinct and accessible description of the spiritual pathway that leads from the human realm into the next realm of Earth's life. There has never been a need for it until now, as humanity has been thoroughly absorbed in the struggles of material plane existence. It has taken a sea-change in the life of Earth for many souls to begin to awaken from the illusory sphere of matter and seek a higher way.

We, who write this booklet, have long ago broken through the cloud of illusion that blankets human life on the densest plane of Earth. We are able to speak to you about the path of return to Spirit from our individual and collective experience, and the time has come to do so. The current wave of spiritual awakening is spreading to the far corners of our planet and many souls are now clamoring to know Truth.

Let us begin by introducing the broad outlines of this writing. Our intention is twofold: To present the contours of the spiritual path in language that any searching soul will be able to understand; and to lighten the burden of discovery for those who have begun to walk this path. Our goal is to explain some of the mysteries that lie at the heart of the spiritual journey which had to remain veiled until now, for very few human beings were prepared to hear about them or confront their reality.

The first principle of spiritual reality is that the human personality—an entity enwrapped in a physical form, having a mind and emotions—is a mask of the True Self. It was an evolutionary necessity to perpetuate the illusion of this mask over a vast expanse of time, until human beings developed the capacity to rise out of their identification with form and discover the higher aspect of Self.

To briefly describe the process of human evolution, we will rely on the tried-and-true metaphor of the life cycle of a butterfly. The dazzling creature with

wings usually begins its existence as a ground-hugging insect—a caterpillar, sometimes mistaken for a worm, often crushed under the weight of larger creatures. When nature signals the time for change, the caterpillar climbs up to a branch of a plant or tree to create a chrysalis. Safely cocooned high off the ground, the transformation begins. The pupa weaves for itself a new vestment for the creature it is becoming. Finally, when the new properties have been well developed and the moment of readiness arrives, the winged creature bursts forth from its hardened shell in all its glory and flies away, distributing pollen to nurture myriad lives in the plant kingdom.

The spiritual path mirrors, to a degree, these three phases in the life of a butterfly. It begins with a human being living ‘on the ground,’ absorbed in the world of matter. When matter becomes unbearably burdensome, and loses its meaning and significance, the individual searches for higher ground. The search ignites the journey that transpires above and beyond the material plane. During the process of transformation, ‘the chrysalis stage,’ light is absorbed and substance is alchemized, until its radiance is powerful enough for the soul to break free from the shell of the persona and become a source of light that can nurture others in the human kingdom.

The transformation of human consciousness began on a small scale during the last century, as cosmic forces created conditions for greater light to infuse the life of the planet. New teachings about the spiritual path were given under the rubric of Ageless Wisdom—ancient wisdom updated in preparation for this momentous turning-point in evolution. Seeds of a new consciousness were implanted in human minds through teachings transmitted by illumined beings who had transcended the human realm. At the same time, incoming astrological and cosmic currents were stirring awake the human soul.

To understand all that we aspire to share with you, you must be able to grasp the fact that unseen evolutionary forces are currently reshaping the contours of life on Earth. Although these forces remain invisible to you, their effects are being felt by every living creature on this planet. The goal is to elevate the

lifestream of Earth to a higher vibrational frequency, raising the consciousness of the kingdoms of life that comprise our Earth.

Evolutionary change occurs over vast expanses of time. Precious minerals in the crust of the Earth, the most valued of which are diamonds found hundreds of miles beneath Earth's surface, formed billions of years ago. Scientists discovered that the human species evolved from its origins among primates over the course of millions of years. This evolution has been traced along a spectrum of *forms, however*, with a focus on the size of the human brain—from small and simple to increasingly large and complex. That is where conventional scientific knowledge of human evolution rests at present.

Since the late 1900s, higher beings in the realm of consciousness that transcends the human, just as human consciousness transcends that of the animals, have been striving to communicate the essential fact that the evolution of consciousness underlies and vitalizes the evolution of forms. The progressive unfoldment of consciousness through the five kingdoms that comprise the life of Earth—mineral, plant, animal, human, and spiritual—is what has impelled the evolution of forms since the birth of our species. As consciousness continues to unfold in the new era, so will the outer forms of life.

Until now, there has been a massive gap between the human and spiritual realms of consciousness. But the next stage in the evolution of our Earth depends on closing this gap. Whereas humans and animals can relate to one another through aspects of their physical forms, for humans to relate to those who dwell in the spiritual realm requires the development of faculties subtler than the physical brain. It is the higher dimension of the human self, the Soul, that is destined to fill the gap between the 4th and 5th kingdoms as Earth's evolution continues.



II. The Unfoldment of the Human Species

Millions of years ago, long before the time from which modern science traces the first human footprints, a higher potential entered the animal form that evolved into the present human form. It has been revealed through the Ageless Wisdom teachings that a spark of divine mind was implanted in the brains of apes, the most evolved animals of that time, giving birth to what became the human species. Vast cycles of evolution passed before this spark of divinity was registered by human minds as a higher dimension of the self—the true Self that is the reincarnating, Soul. Only recently, eons after the implantation of this seed of higher consciousness, has the divine-human potential begun to emerge in more than a few individuals. In the epochs since the birth of the 4th kingdom, the germinating seed produced another layer of awareness within the human being, and then another, and another. With each major advance in consciousness, the form containing the evolving species underwent a metamorphosis, leaving physical evidence across time of a wide spectrum of human forms, with brains of growing size and complexity, identified by biologists and geneticists as precursors to the brains of present-day women and men.

Until the present, scientists have considered the changing size and complexity of the human brain as the key markers of the evolution of the species. However, brain size, which has been equated with intelligence, differs significantly from consciousness. Consciousness is the substance of the soul, which utilizes the brain-mind to become aware of itself. The soul is an evolving organ of awareness that learns to perceive the existence of a realm of Earth's life invisible to the physical senses and unknowable to the concrete mind. The emergence of soul consciousness at this turning of the ages reflects

a ripening of the seed of divine mind, the fruit of long phases of evolution in the realm of dense form.

What we are about to say may arouse disbelief in some readers, but we ask you to remain open to considering the following facts as they pertain to the coming stage of unfoldment. As conveyed in the Ageless Wisdom, the first human forms were composed of etheric substance and took shape on a plane of Earth known as the physical-etheric plane. It was in this subtler sphere that primitive bodies were first developed.

Picture in your mind a valley sinking below two high plateaus like a U-shaped curve. The plateaus represent the physical-etheric plane. In the long course of its evolution, the human species descended from this subtler realm into the valley—the world of physical density—for the development of physical, emotional, and concrete mental bodies. The growth and coordination of these three bodies gave rise to the formation of the personality, the outer-world instrument of the soul and its mask until the light breaks through.

During the course of lifetimes of immersion in dense matter, the triple form of the personality became integrated, giving rise to the sense of individuality that characterizes the current era. This was a pivotal stage in the evolution of the species as it allowed for the development of autonomy and free will. However, this level of consciousness has now reached its limits and turned in on itself. The dangers of the overdeveloped sense of individuality are evident across the world.

And yet the destruction wrought by untrammelled individualism within a portion of the human species has served to arouse the divine spark in others. Awakening humanity has entered the upward arc of evolution and has begun to tread the path by which the soul comes in contact with its divine origins and, over time, returns to the realm of Spirit. Through steady expansions of consciousness, this path leads to alignment with the Kingdom of Souls, guardians of the divine plan and teachers of humanity. The divine plan for the Aquarian age foretells the blending of energies of the 4th and 5th kingdoms toward the creation of a 'kingdom of heaven on Earth.'

To gauge the magnitude of this upward turning on the arc of evolution, it is important to understand what preceded it. To arrive at this juncture, the human soul had to awaken from relentless rounds of pain and suffering born of the illusion of separation, based on the appearance of individual forms. To be able to transcend the limitations of the current state of awareness and realize the inseparability of all lives, it was an evolutionary requirement to first develop a full sense of individual identity: a coordinated physical body, an expressive emotional body, and a developed mind—one that evolved from a primitive state into a faculty able to penetrate light-years ahead into the birth and death of stars and galaxies.

Now, at this critical time in planetary evolution, the highly developed human mind is capable of becoming the searchlight of the soul. Human beings across the globe are awakening to the limits of the material world and seeking more. There is a spreading awareness that the world created from the separative, individualized stage of personality development is collapsing. It has become a necessity for humanity to transcend the reality of the outer personality and enter the reality of the soul.

A trigger for the soul's awakening is satiation with the material world. Rapidly increasing numbers of human beings are arriving at this state. Shiny, new, expensive material things have lost their luster for this segment of the race, especially in light of the environmental destruction that accompanies the production of these things. All across the world there is a growing realization that laboring for a lifetime to purchase material objects does not constitute a meaningful existence.

At the same time, the growing wave of climate disasters is raising awareness of the transitory nature of life. These and many other factors have sparked a widening search for meaning and purpose. Human souls are being prodded

to ascend the upward arc of evolution to the next plateau, on the etheric-physical plane, where a new world of light will foster the flowering of the human Soul.



III. A Radical Shift in Consciousness

To the soul, what constitutes a meaningful life is altogether different from what gives meaning to the outer persona, its mask. For the latter, living in the illusion of separation, meaning accrues through the aggrandizement of the individual self. This can occur through individual accomplishments in the world that confer status and prestige, through the accumulation of wealth and power, or through the achievements of family members. For the soul, meaning comes through the experience of essential oneness with humanity and all of Earth's life, perceived through a subtler lens on a level of consciousness beyond the material plane. Purpose is found in contributing to the collective good and giving expression to the fundamental unity of all lives.

It is a law of evolution that consciousness precedes and shapes form. Physical science has shown that as the human brain advanced from the Neanderthal stage to the present, the human form has become increasingly more refined. Accumulated learning through experience on the physical plane served to enlarge the size, functionality, and complexity of the brain. At each stage of advancing awareness, the form became increasingly more upright and distinguishable from the animal form.

The upright human eventually became capable of hearing the inner voice of divinity, which begins as conscience—simple awareness of right and wrong. Yet, as history has amply demonstrated, that inner voice has been acknowledged only rarely. In the metaphorical story of Adam and Eve, it was human disobedience toward the will of God that caused the rupture from Divinity, which awakening souls who tread the Path are in process of repairing.

The soul who is able to hear the subtle voice is drawn to align with the evolving purpose held in the Mind of God. Adhering to inner guidance is what enables human consciousness to arise from the densest realm of matter to the plane of the soul, where the progressive unfoldment of the divine spark

takes place. If you can grasp this idea, the destruction of the dense physical realm of Earth will be seen in a new light. What is being destroyed is the habitability of a dimension of life where humanity developed into its present state of consciousness and form. By destroying Earth's capacity to sustain physical life, global forces of selfishness are exposing the limits of their power, while opening a door to the revelation of a sphere of life that transcends the physical.

The planetary shift that has been anticipated by generations of seekers is intimately connected with a radical shift in consciousness—from the ordinary human self, the personality mired in the material world, to the soul—the spiritual being that first awakens in the heart. This being gradually recognizes itself as part of the fabric of our planetary life with a substantial role to play in furthering its evolution. In the new era, on a subtler plane of our Earth, human beings will remove the mask and reveal their true identity, becoming co-creators of an entirely new world.



IV. The Search for Truth

As the Aquarian Age unfolds, individuals aligned with the thrust of evolution will increasingly step onto the spiritual path. For the present, it is common for this path to begin when a person questions the legitimacy of social and political institutions through a growing sensitivity to the inequities that plague humanity. It becomes evident that societies of all political orientations are designed to serve the interests of those in the top echelons, leaving those beneath them to grovel for crumbs. The awakening soul realizes there must be more to life than what meets the eye and is stirred to discover what lies behind outer appearances.

The search for truth generally begins as a solitary endeavor. There are rare instances when two souls who have been closely joined may guide each other to spiritual teachers or centers. But the chief characteristic of the first stage of the path—the first initiation into a greater reality—is the individual’s courage to break free of the limits of what they have been taught to believe is the *only* truth, or the *only* way to live life. To turn one’s back on the foundations of early life—family values, religious traditions, learning attained in schools and universities—and set out to discover a deeper, higher, greater Reality requires considerable inner strength.

With rare exceptions, this is a lonely venture. One leaves behind those people and institutions that have provided the social fabric of life and embarks upon a quest with an unknown destination. The prospect may be filled with positive expectancy but also carries the anxiety of uncertainty. This step into the unknown reflects the coming alive of the true self, which is moved to shed that which has lost meaning in life, as a snake sheds an old skin.

The path begins in earnest when one is able to hear the fledgling inner voice of the soul, which urges the seeker onward. To make this possible, outer voices must be silenced for periods of time. Yet paradoxically, the seeker’s life at this early stage is often filled with external stimulation: books and teachers,

classes and programs, travels and pilgrimages to holy sites. One moves from pillar to post, searching for light, believing for a time that a reliable source has been found only to discover that something is lacking. “Neti, Neti,” is the Hindu expression for this stage of the wanderer: “Not this, Not that.”

A higher purpose served by these myriad experiences is sharpening the faculty of discernment, a vital aptitude for treading the path. As it proceeds, there will be no outer structures to provide definition or give meaning to life. Such guideposts will increasingly depend upon burnishing the light within. The capacity to discern truth is honed during the wanderings that characterize this initial stage of the journey. Over time, one learns to see through the eyes of the higher self and to distinguish the real from the unreal, the true from the false.

It is an ancient axiom that the heart knows what is true. The basis of this axiom is that the heart vibrates in resonance with a flow of energy imperceptible to the five physical senses. That energy—called Spirit, or God, or Divinity, or Holiness—is first sensed in the heart chakra of the subtle body, the etheric body that underlies the dense physical form. By vibrational frequency, the etheric heart center filters out what is false and clears a pathway for the light of truth to enter awareness.

When the spiritual journey begins, signals from the heart center are received in simple ways. One has a *feeling* of what is right and what is wrong, what is true and what is false. However, mind and emotion often obscure the knowledge of the heart. It takes years of spiritual practice to diminish the influence of entrenched modes of thought and patterns of emotional reaction before one can clearly hear and follow the guidance of the heart which, over time, becomes imbued with the light of the soul.

Spiritual practices such as meditation and contemplation become essential at this stage. They serve to still the mind and emotions, allowing the light of Spirit to enter the consciousness. The discipline of meditation has been used for a variety of purposes in modern life, including relaxation and physical healing. At its core, however, this ancient practice is a method by which the

programming of the lesser self—the persona that has previously held the center stage of life—is replaced by the higher Self.

The seeker who is serious about treading the path of ascent will find that it is imperative to master a method of stilling the mind and allowing the voice of the soul to be heard. As long as external voices remain the loudest ones, they will drown out what begins as the ‘still small voice within.’ The aim of spiritual practices at this stage is to raise the volume of the inner voice and, over time, take stock of the usefulness of its guidance.

One of the pitfalls of early aspirants is to assume that everything registered as coming from the inner voice is accurate and reliable. This assumption leads to many wrong turns along the way. And yet, significant learning accrues through deviations from the straight and narrow path. They teach the soul what it must know to proceed on the journey. Every slip into an abyss of darkness can become an opportunity to retrieve rays of wisdom born of experience; every fall can supply an occasion to balance the karmic ledger and allow greater peace to enter one’s life.

During this stage of the path, the aspirant is moving from a state of consciousness circumscribed by external disciplines—rules, regulations, laws, social standards and norms of behavior—and entering a phase of life where progress depends on reining in the lesser self, which one is outgrowing, by developing internal disciplines. With time and experience, as the personality releases the past and discovers higher ground, the Self becomes its navigator.

At this point of the journey, it is impossible to foresee where the path is leading. The seeker’s main objective is to discover a source of light that will illumine the causes of suffering and the treacheries of human life. The quest is born of an impelling need for relief from the pain of a life and a world that no longer makes sense. It is only later, much later, that the true destination of the Path is realized.

The pain that drives an individual to seek greater light can derive from a variety of causes, ranging from the loss of a loved one, to the loss of good

health, to the loss of ideals. Many of those who set out to discover the deeper causes of suffering have spent years as ardent idealists—activists and humanitarians called to create a better world. Their hearts have been opened to the interrelatedness of all lives and their sensitivity to suffering has driven them to engage in relieving that suffering. They eventually discover, however, that personality limitations diminish or thwart the prospects of achieving the goal. The politics that dominate every facet of personality life—from families to large institutions—inevitably foil the most noble and lofty goals. Disillusionment becomes a strong impetus to search for higher truth.

The gift of this phase of the journey is that the pain propelling one to break free from former strictures also softens the heart, where the first dewdrops of higher awareness settle. Suffering from a broken heart is the universal plight of human beings. That which had seemed a reliable support—be it a person, a place, or circumstance—or that which was desperately hoped for but failed to materialize, creates a devastating sense of loss that is felt like a tear in the firmament of one's being. An inner pillar collapses, creating dread that the whole house is coming down. Unknown at the time is that the loss of this inner pillar, provided by other people or external conditions, grants the space for rebuilding the house from within with finer materials. The coarseness of the original building materials is refined by passing through crises that become the purifying fires of life.



V. Fires of Purification

On the road to becoming a ‘pilgrim to the holy land,’ there are constant detours. In the early stages of awakening, distractions abound. The seeker wanders hither and yon, tasting from a panoply of religious and spiritual experiences. Satisfaction is sought but rarely found for any length of time, as the qualities that will ultimately grant satisfaction to the soul are not yet within reach.

Regular physical practices such as yoga or t’ai chi are sometimes considered to be spiritual paths. While they are useful disciplines for body and mind, when they become ends unto themselves, they do not constitute what we refer to as the spiritual path—a pathway to self-transformation. As avenues of healing and self-discipline, such practices can be extremely advantageous for the emergence of the higher self as mastering them grants a sense of self-empowerment that can buttress the psychic ground for the journey. But they are not one and the same.

The period that follows awakening to a higher reality is a time of serious testing to determine whether the aspirant is ready to proceed on the journey, for the demands will intensify from here on. The tenuous seeker may resist abandoning the comforts of material life, or find the disciplines too demanding, or may be lured into an attractive position in the world. For myriad reasons, they may lack the will to press forward.

Whatever the reason, temporizing only delays the inevitable. Once the soul is stirred awake, it will not be satisfied until it is nourished by the Source of Life. Once the personality encounters the inner spark of divinity, it cannot return to a state of unknowingness. Awakening is like a small campfire that can either burn itself out for lack of fuel or can be fed by adding small branches and twigs until it becomes a raging fire that lights the path ahead. If the small fire is allowed to die out in one lifetime, it will be reignited in the next.

Once the spark of divine mind has been recognized by the incarnate soul, it will never entirely fade from view. Established patterns of life may interrupt the good intentions of the early aspirant, temporarily blotting out fleeting deep impressions of something greater. Outer conditions of material life may recreate themselves for a time, but a profound discomfort with social values and norms will ultimately drive the one who has awakened back to the path of ascent. This has ever been the nature of the journey, but present world conditions have amplified this discomfort to the point where a growing wave of souls feels propelled to discover the Higher Way.

The goal of the second stage of the journey is to remove the dross of the personality that has blocked the light of the soul and kept it hidden from awareness. Before the lifetime in which the soul awakens, the individual accumulates karmic debts that must be repaid on the path of return to the Source of Life, God, the Creator. In addition, every one of the billions of souls who have reincarnated through cycles of Earth's evolution has been part of the blood-stained collective history of humanity.

The work of clearing the karmic ledger requires considerable spiritual courage. Yet by the end of the stage of self-purification, the light of the soul will shine unobstructedly, and the love and joy intrinsic to the true self will become the foundation upon which one's life is lived and one's spiritual purpose is fulfilled. To arrive there, the seeker undergoes a period of self-examination through which there occurs a growing sense of responsibility for the circumstances of one's life.

It could be said that this is the most challenging phase of the spiritual journey for it requires profound self-scrutiny, which can generate great personal discomfort. The light of the soul, growing brighter since withdrawing from the illusions of the material world, now turns inward to expose the obstacles to its emergence. In time this light will permeate the personality and produce a life solidly anchored in Spirit. But for now, it shines on blockages to the soul's fuller presence in the seeker's life.

The real work of this phase of the path begins when the personality becomes conscious of the pull of the soul. From the point when the inner light begins to dawn, there is a mounting awareness of the patterns of thought and behavior that have shaped the life of the individual. During this time, as restlessness grows with established aspects of life, there may be frequent changes in employment or relationships that will reveal personality patterns that remain consistent in spite of changing circumstances. With the development of self-observation, needed changes in habits and qualities are recognized.

All who tread this way inevitably enter what is known as the 'burning ground,' passing through the fires of purification. What is being burned away is every tendency toward selfishness—every self-seeking motive that has afflicted the life of the individual until now. The word 'afflicted' applies both to an internal state of dis-ease and to the external impact of this dis-ease upon others. Every thought and action driven by purely selfish motives, in disregard of injury to others, takes a toll on the individual while harming other lives. This is the root cause of karma.

A life crisis becomes a burning ground experience when the soul is conscious enough to recognize lessons that can be gleaned from the crisis. Whereas the unconscious personality feels victimized by life and interprets a personal tragedy as a random happening, the result of bad luck, the awakening soul begins to realize that nothing happens by chance. Simultaneously, the realization dawns that crises bring opportunities to remove the dross of the persona that blocks the light of the soul. Self-pity is replaced by a quest to learn the life lessons being offered by a particular crisis, drawing forth the kind of insight that leads to self-transformation.

Those who enter the burning ground and willingly allow the cleansing action of its flames will in time become purified of any impulse to do harm. Consciously crossing the burning ground, while extracting the lessons that the soul imparts to the persona, sets the traveler on the road to achieving the ultimate state of purification that culminates in mastery of the human

condition. It also opens the door to contact with Those who have achieved that state of mastery and have entered the realm of Spirit.

During this transition to a subtler dimension of life, countless individuals are experiencing contact with beings on the inner planes. However, much of what they receive will invariably be distorted until they pass through the fires that purify. The danger of this stage is commonly called ‘the glamour of psychism.’ Messages or images received are believed to come from beings on a higher plane of consciousness and thus deemed infallible indicators of truth or guidance. In fact, such messages will commonly be distorted projections from the astral plane—the plane of emotions.

As long as the motive for such communication is sullied by personal desire or ambition, the messages will be unreliable. They will certainly **not** originate with members of the next higher kingdom of our Earth—the realm of perfected human souls known as the Spiritual Hierarchy. Messages from this realm will be transmitted only to human souls whose personalities have been cleansed by the flames of purification to the point where selflessness and harmlessness are unailing.

This phase of the journey is critical to humanity’s future and constitutes the next frontier for souls at the forefront of conscious evolution. It paves the way for communication and cooperation between the human and spiritual realms of Earth—the relationship that will give birth to a new world. Events now occurring across the globe could be viewed as aiding this process. Blazing fires, for example, might be seen as flames of purification serving to rid humanity of identification with the realm of matter—the realm where selfishness is fed by the illusion of separation. The exposure of human selfishness and greed as the main causes of planetary destruction is releasing many souls from that illusion and driving them to search for a Greater Reality.



VI. Metamorphosis

Once the higher self has awakened, the individual is increasingly driven to find its true home—the divine source of its life. This inner drive supplies the motivation for cleansing the personality and developing the needed disciplines on the Path of Return. As the commitment to pursuing the quest grows stronger, the spark of divinity grows brighter. The light intensifies until it becomes a beacon that guides the seeker onward.

A pivotal stage on the journey begins when the mind absorbs the clear light of the soul sufficiently to be able to dominate the astral body, the body of emotions. Prior to awakening, the human being is largely governed by powerful unconscious forces that constitute the personality: physical instincts, emotional habit patterns, and crystallized mental perceptions. Together they form the personality's mask, which obscures the divine soul until the mask is dissolved and the central sun of the human being, largely hidden since the dawn of time, is fully revealed.

The evolution of consciousness that results in transformation and transfiguration endures for lifetimes. Until the stage of mastery, when the perfected human being no longer has need of a physical body, the advancing soul will increasingly utilize the persona as a vehicle for spreading light in the world. But first, the contents of the lower vehicles must be transformed into a worthy instrument.

The metamorphosis that takes place on the path to enlightenment has been called The Great Work. This work begins by removing the coarsest personality blockages to the soul's light. Before the path begins in earnest, the instinctual drives of the physical body must be contained. A choice is made between satisfying the hunger of the flesh or the soul's hunger for the light of truth. The energies expended to satisfy cravings for physical pleasures must be transmuted and redirected to the quest to discover and carry out the higher purpose of a person's existence.

Once the physical instincts have been refined, the aspirant becomes aware of the need to do the same with regard to the emotional body. Powerful emotions that are allowed to engulf the personality inhibit both mental clarity and the light of the soul. Nevertheless, by the time the aspirant begins to consciously pursue the path, the soul is already providing its light. In overlapping cycles of time and experience, it sets in motion the spiritual alchemy that transforms the contents of the physical, emotional, and mental bodies.

Many who read this brief overview of stages of the path will be struggling through one or another of these phases of development. It is in the realm of emotions, in particular, that some of the greatest challenges of the path take place and where, as a result, there are frequent incidences of backsliding into inertia. By this point on the path, however, the soul has made its presence felt and will direct the life in such a way that the individual will inevitably resume the journey.

An essential key to transforming the emotional body is uncovering the roots of unconscious patterning. Every powerful negative feeling—anger, hatred, fear, dread, depression, or anxiety—has its origins in past karmic situations whose residues have endured into the present. Every soul who reaches this stage of the path will have encountered the reality of reincarnation, but possibly only on the plane of ideas. There comes a time when one is forced to wrestle with the origins of unconscious forces that arise repeatedly and become impediments to spiritual progress.

The more sincerely the seeker addresses such issues and asks for guidance, the more accessible is the flow of light from the soul, and from the Realm of Souls. Fleeting deep impressions of an intuitive nature are replaced by the realization that a greater source of light is available when the inner channel is freed from clatter and debris. As the flow of light increases, the mind becomes conscious of the presence of the true self as a guide upon the Higher Way.

When the eye of the soul first begins to see—from the higher, broader, more inclusive vantage point—it looks outward upon the world. It perceives what is wrong with materialistic systems and structures and what needs to change in the interest of creating a more just and equitable world. Only later does the realization dawn that internal change is needed as well, to fulfill the purpose for the soul's incarnation and bring light into the world.

Through teachings from enlightened sources and the development of spiritual disciplines, one becomes increasingly clear-sighted about the need for internal change. The gaze of the aspirant then turns toward the inner life, giving rise to The Observer—a term for the soul's capacity to see with detachment and dispassion. Once a foothold is gained on the path of ascent and the emotions are stabilized, the searchlight of the soul can be safely turned toward obstructions to its greater light.

Arriving at a state of openness to truth about the self represents a major milestone on the journey. The seeker who progresses this far is no longer a spiritual aspirant but a disciple, one who is committed to reaching the goal to the point where the most challenging disciplines are willingly undertaken. To turn the beacon of soul light on blockages to this light, resulting from engrained personality obstructions, is an act of courage that separates 'the sheep from the goats' on the precipitous path of ascent.

The openness to objective truth about the personality, accompanied by a commitment to eliminate negative patterns, is a signal to members of the spiritual Hierarchy, Guides of the human race, that the individual soul is prepared to receive an intensification of light. When self-purification is underway and a readiness for greater light is established, the consecrated disciple comes into resonance with Beings in the realm of Spirit who will help to guide their steps from this point onward.

Emotional patterns are extremely difficult to break. Their influences remain until the higher stages of the path, but through the exercise of will they increasingly come under the control of the mind. Life will continue to present opportunities for growth through trials and testing in one sphere of life or

another, but such tests can now be discerned in the light of the soul, and their meaning is magnified by flashes of insight from spiritual teachers and guides. Every time deeper understanding is gained by observing the vicissitudes of life with detachment and dispassion—through the eye of the true Self—the grip of **patterned** emotional responses is weakened. Transformation occurs as situations habitually experienced as crises become the learning ground of the soul: opportunities for a greater inflow of spiritual light.



VII. Doorway to a Higher Realm

As the burning ground does its work and the dross of the personality turns to ash, it is replaced in the life of the disciple by an expanding field of wisdom distilled from experience. The progressively refined personality is becoming a worthy instrument for the Self that has engineered the journey to this point of deliverance. What began as a dim spark in the mists of time, advancing through countless cycles of evolution, is evolving into a steady flame that can light the way for others.

This is the moment when the soul is recognized as an embodiment of Christ consciousness. Thus far, at every step of the journey, the observing soul registers incremental signs of the transformation of consciousness: the opening of the heart to enfold more of life in its embrace, an increasing willingness to sacrifice personal desires and ambitions for a higher good, a realization of growing proximity to the realm of spirit. There comes a time when this progress is externalized—the radiance of the soul, the higher Self, becomes observable in the world.

The Master Jesus in Palestine radiated a quality of spiritual love and wisdom that was unmistakably of divine origin, along with the supernatural capacity to heal and restore the well-being of those who approached him, plus the courage to stand in Truth like a pillar of fire. As the soul infuses its outer vehicle and bursts forth in its own light, reflections of these qualities begin to emerge. Undeviating expressions of wisdom and love, recognizable by others, mark the disciple who is becoming initiated into the spiritual Hierarchy.

Such individuals have demonstrably built the inner bridge of consciousness from the human realm to the spiritual, with assistance from elders in the higher realm. The so-called ‘bridge of light’ is a living stream of electric energy that flows from one party to another, creating an invisible line of communication. To establish the flow between these different levels of consciousness requires adjustments on both sides of the bridge. The less

evolved being must be able to raise the vibrational frequency of their etheric body of light and the more evolved being must temporarily lower their vibrational frequency to find a stable meeting ground.

The term ‘vibrational frequency’ has become part of the vocabulary of contemporary seekers, along with the word ‘resonance.’ The common usage of these words reflects an embryonic awareness of subtle dimensions of life. Yet, the relationship between consciousness and vibrational frequency remains a mystery. The term ‘frequency’ derives from the realm of physical science, where electricity is measured by the amps it displays—the quantities of energy that pass through an electric current. In physical science, it is assumed that electric energy flows from a physical source. In spiritual science, it is understood that the source is of divine origin.

The nature of a current or a stream is movement and flow; energy flows from one point to another. In the case of electricity, the current can be regulated by raising or lowering the voltage or power from one velocity to another. When electricity takes the form of sound, it releases vibrations that are audible. The range of sound vibrations can be heard across a broad spectrum from the softest to the loudest notes. The sensitive music listener can actually *feel* the difference in sound vibrating in the tissues of the physical body, with low and high notes stirring different sensations.

So it is with spiritual light. As the aspirant becomes a consecrated disciple, a door opens to the next kingdom of Earth’s life where the Masters of Wisdom dwell. What opens the door is the quality of light emanated by the disciple. The soul’s light attracts the attention of an illumined being within the spiritual Hierarchy, when the brightness of that light indicates the disciple’s ability to remain upon the narrow, razor-edged path regardless of the severity of the inevitable tests and trials. Such a human being becomes a candidate for entering the higher kingdom and no effort is spared to bring this about.

The principle means of interaction between members of the spiritual and human realms is telepathy. The sender of telepathic impressions, dwelling in an invisible realm, must develop the means of communicating with a person

living in the material, physical world. This is where the work of achieving resonance begins. The sender, within the Hierarchy of Light, will aid the recipient to walk the path to the point where resonant vibrational frequencies will enable the recipient to correctly hear the messages being sent.

It can take many lifetimes for a human being to achieve this degree of resonance. The aspirant, the one who aspires to discover higher truth, is cast into a world of unfamiliar concepts and practices geared to invisible realities, whose application requires diligence and discipline. The disciple, the one who consciously decides to commit his or her life to the Path of Return, engages in a process that continues until the moment when the glow of the soul's light is bright enough to attract a teacher and guide from the higher realms.

We might liken this process to what occurs in the life of a child who shows unusual promise as a musician. At first, such a child will likely take music lessons from someone in the local neighborhood. As the student advances and the level of potential is revealed, parents or guardians may look for a teacher of higher caliber who lives further away. The student who aspires to become a professional musician and makes a commitment to that goal will willingly adhere to the requisite disciplines. As the musical capacity increases, a teacher is found who can help burnish the talent to a level of mastery and readiness to appear on a concert stage.

The seeker likewise advances through stages of growth to reveal the soul's inherent capacity. In the beginning, treading the path depends upon personal motivation to discover a reliable source of higher truth and apply that truth to life. It progresses with persistence in developing regular practices and disciplines, and a conscious willingness to cleanse the outer vehicle, thus transforming the suffering of the burning ground into a field for burnishing the light of wisdom.

However, from the very start of the search for light, beyond the limits of the concrete world, the higher self begins to make its presence felt. This long-dormant aspect of self begins to 'speak' to the personality and guide its steps toward greater light through silent cues and signs, although the source of this

guidance is not consciously recognized. The individual will think in terms of having good ideas and experiencing helpful encounters ‘out of the blue.’

Step by step, in diverse ways, the awakening soul learns to recognize the existence of higher worlds. One of the most dramatic of these ways is the occurrence of synchronicities—seeming coincidences that have significance only for the individual. Something appears visibly in the outer world that reflects an idea or thought in the person’s mind. In recent times, it has become more common for people to recognize these meaningful coincidences and to sense that a benevolent force is behind them. The phenomenon of synchronicity is a means by which human consciousness is made aware of the mysterious subtle forces that order the universe.

Through such experiences, occurring in an infinite variety of ways and forms, the soul learns to pay attention to subtle signs and symbols that appear by inscrutable means. A physical plane event occurs that has meaning only in the inner life of an individual. A passage in a book appears just as a question about the topic enters the seeker’s mind. Or, as the ancient saying holds: the teacher appears when the student is ready. Such experiences may at first be seen as coincidental, but on closer examination the individual will perceive the work of mysterious higher forces that are drawing the attention of the soul to the inner worlds.

In due time, as the path continues to unfold through a steady commitment to finding and embodying the light, inner Teachers will make their presence known. Their appearance to a disciple is an act of recognition on the part of these Higher Beings of the individual’s progress on the path. The intensifying light of the individual’s soul attracts a greater Light in the form of teachers who will guide the disciple through the higher stages of the path that lead toward mastery of the human condition.

Spiritual telepathy, which makes this possible, arises from the synchronization of vibratory frequencies between a disciple and a Master of Wisdom. Members of the spiritual Hierarchy hold responsibility for different aspects of the plan of evolution and are ever on the lookout for disciples who have the

capacity to cooperate in working out an aspect of the plan. The substance of the mechanism that makes this communication possible is light.

Light is carried on waves of different frequencies, set in motion by specific vibrations. Sunlight has its own frequency, as does the light of an electric bulb. The light of the sun is fueled by highly charged energies that pass through its rays. The light of an electric bulb is charged by currents passing through a cord when a switch is turned on. These forms of light are visible to human beings, but the light spectrum continues into realms of subtlety and refinement invisible and unknown to the human race.

In these higher realms, waves or currents of light are set off by the vibratory power of conscious thought. When telepathic rapport is established between a master in the spiritual realm and a disciple in the human realm, thoughts charged with subtle energy and substance by the master are directed to disciples prepared to receive them. This method of communication is known as spiritual impression: information is impressed upon human minds by divinized Beings.

What makes this possible is that everything existing in our world is a manifestation of consciousness and energy. Light is a form of energy that penetrates multiple dimensions of Earth's life until it is blocked by the density of form. What occurs on the spiritual path is a raising of the vibrations of the human form, making it increasingly penetrable by light of greater refinement.

The soul, consciousness itself, cannot shine its light through a dense form. But as the higher self awakens and moves into the foreground of an individual's awareness, its presence impels changes in the personality life that allow its fuller expression. The growing light of the soul transmutes the substance of atoms and cells in the physical body and makes the chakras of the vital etheric body more sensitive to refined expressions of sound, light, and color. This increasing sensitivity reduces barriers to the subtler realms of Earth wherein the future of humanity lies.



VIII. Divine Love

When the light of the soul grows radiant enough to permeate the personality, a new stage of the path begins to unfold. As stated in the ageless wisdom teachings, this is the stage where an individual soul is permitted entry into the kingdom or realm of Souls. These individuals are disciples who have advanced well beyond the state of ordinary human awareness. They have come to realize the spiritual purpose for their existence and have dedicated their lives to fulfilling that purpose.

What enables the disciple to reach this stage is the experience of pure spiritual love—the love radiating from Beings who have transcended all attachments to life in the three worlds (physical, emotional, and mental), and have arrived at a state of selflessness so pure that the love of God flows through them unimpededly. This love begins to pour forth as soon as the light of a disciple attracts the attention of a perfected human soul in the realm of spirit.

Initially, this divine love flows gently and inconspicuously, as the disciple acclimates to the new world of energy. In time, as it is recognized, the power of the energy stream increases. It is this love that holds the individual to the progressively steep and arduous path, through times when deep discouragement sets in and the will to press forward is failing. It is this love that quietly fills the disciple's heart when a sense of isolation obscures the way forward.

From the time of awakening to the higher self, there are external signs of the flow of spiritual love although they are not recognized as such. The occurrence of a spontaneous healing, or an unimagined stroke of good fortune, or an extraordinary synchronicity are seen as singular events related to good karma or fate. Individuals who become more sensitively attuned to the existence of higher forces will begin to appreciate that 'higher hands' are involved in generating such positive twists of fate.

From the start of the journey, invisible forces impact the life of the seeker in ways intended to engender awareness of the living reality of the spiritual realm. However, just as the unknowing aspirant believes that brilliant ideas which suddenly land in their minds are their own, unaware of the subtle process of mental impression by spiritual guides, so it is often assumed that a simple stroke of luck is the cause of their good fortune.

The fact is that the inner government of this planet, the hierarchy of love and wisdom that guides Earth's evolution, is ever watchful for souls of the caliber needed to replenish its ranks. This body of Great Souls is never static. Just as human beings evolve into ever-expanding levels of consciousness, so do members of the spiritual hierarchy. They exist along a vertical spectrum that can be likened to a ladder or a pyramid. Those who are closest to the top, by dint of accumulating the highest degree of illumination, are given the choice of moving onward—either to higher ranks affiliated with Earth's evolution or to other planetary or cosmic lives.

This means there are always openings within the spiritual Hierarchy, the realm of 'graduate humans,' which are waiting to be filled by disciples and initiates in process of mastering and transcending the human condition. At the same time, the Hierarchy has a continuous need for embodied disciples and initiates to implement aspects of the Plan on the outer plane of Earth. When new 'candidates' are identified, they are helped along in myriad ways.

The love poured forth from the Hierarchy to aspirants and dedicated disciples takes many forms. In the early stages of the path, it is often made manifest through the kinds of visible, physical events already mentioned—dramatic experiences that the seeker will initially assign to the realm of miracles. Such experiences leave indelible impressions, causing an overhaul of previous perceptions about reality and drawing the aspirant forward on the path.

In later stages, when the soul begins to consciously register that the source of such happenings lies in subtle realms, the love of spiritual guides and teachers is sensed inwardly. Guidance may come in the form of subtle direction to attend events where relationships are formed that influence the journey. A

meeting of kindred souls, mysteriously 'arranged,' generates an inspiring work of art, or music, or literature. Direction is received at a fork in the road where the wrong choice would have had disastrous consequences.

It is in retrospect, as the soul reviews turning points in life that led to its current place on the path, that the love behind these subtle directions is most appreciated. At the time when such inner nudges arise, they may be sensed as part of a benevolent design moving them toward the fulfillment of purpose, without being clearly understood. Even when prods in a particular direction appear to be dead-ends or wrong turns, when later understood to have issued from Elders on the inner planes, they will be understood to have served a purpose on the path of ascent.

There comes a time when the dross of the personality is sufficiently burned away to reveal a soul living in its own light, under its own authority, no longer influenced by the expectations of others immersed in the world of matter. This is the moment when the love of divinity is experienced more directly. A dynamic telepathic relationship is formed with a Master, or with Initiates closely involved in the work of a Master, through which spiritual love flows freely and perceptibly. It is realized, through direct experience, that the nature of God is love and that the universe is conditioned and permeated by a golden web of divine love—the force that binds forms of life that appear separate into one indivisible whole.

Prior to this stage, the aspirant to higher truth will experience moments of joy and possibly moments of bliss—the ecstasy that flows from realizing the true nature of the soul and its capacity to touch divinity in the spiritual realm and in other human souls. At this later stage, those moments turn into a steady state of being. The joy that belongs to the true Self, experienced through communion with the wonders of nature and loving kindred souls, turns into bliss arising from unceasing awareness of the love that permeates the entire universe. This divine love is the invisible engine of evolution, leading all lives at all stages of awareness toward a higher, greater Reality.

The incarnate soul who is initiated into the spiritual Hierarchy becomes a bearer of the light that characterizes this sphere of enlightened beings. Within this sphere, there are no obstacles to the love that issues from the planetary Logos, the lord of our Earth, and His emissaries. Those who dwell there are receivers and transmitters of pure spiritual love—to and from one another and to human beings awakening to the divinity within. The path of entry into this dimension of Earth's life has been shrouded in secrecy until now, when the collective awakening of humanity is preparing many souls for this leap in evolution. In preparation for eons, it is being accelerated by the cosmic and planetary forces that are ushering in the new era.



IX. Divine Law

The fulfillment of divine law within the human evolution produces ‘just men and women made perfect.’ These are individuals who have mastered the lessons of the human kingdom and have advanced into the spiritual kingdom. Having met the karmic obligations stipulated by the Law of Cause and Effect and having achieved the illumination that comes with the purification of motives, they have no other life intention than service to the divine plan.

Prior to that culminating point on the Path, the incarnate initiate progresses through expanding levels of learning and achievement. Consciousness grows through further refinements of vision and insight, plus course corrections when needed. An early initiate into the realm of Spirit can be a reliable collaborator on an aspect of the Plan yet still not be entirely free of karmic obligations. Periodically, as circumstances trigger old emotional and mental patterns, karmic residues will surface as opportunities for further cleansing and greater exposure of the true self.

At this advanced stage of the journey, personality adjustments are made without self-blame, self-denigration, guilt, or shame. Firmly identified with the higher self and consciously living in the aura of love radiating from the Kingdom of Souls, such emotions are left behind with the discarded shell of the old persona. The meshing of energies that occurs when a person consciously enters the Realm of Souls ensures a flow of divine love that is reliable, just as a beloved child can rely on the steady flow of parental love. When the personal past is redeemed and cleansed of feelings of remorse, the disciple is freed to enter further into the ranks of the Hierarchy.

On the path of transformation, the meaning of ‘law’ is also transformed. Having lived under the governance of human laws, which are often arbitrary or designed to serve the powerful, the initiate into a higher dimension of reality comes to appreciate the power of spiritual laws to transform the self.

Learning to conform to these laws initially causes discomfort to the personality but a sense of gratitude arises over time for the liberation they bring. By aligning with these undeviating laws, the lesser self becomes subordinate to the higher self and the suffering of the human condition comes to an end.

In general, seekers have no conscious remembrance of the circumstances that created karmic debt that persists into the present lifetime. Causes can only be surmised based on conditions one has faced in the current lifetime. A useful assumption is that present conditions in some way mirror what came before, except 'the shoe is on the other foot.' At the higher stages of the path, when soul identity is secure enough to bear whatever distress may arise from encountering facts of one's karmic history, circumstances will often bring to light the factors that created the debt which finally comes due. This is the chance for ultimate refinements of character that lead to the state of perfection.

Most of humanity is blind to the reality that indulging in a life of illusory freedom from constraint, unconscious of harm done to others, produces liabilities in the 'karmic ledger' or 'book of life' that accompanies the soul from one lifetime to another. But debts eventually come due. This is the undeviating law that drives the advance of the human soul. It is the pain of penalties endured that eventually tenderizes the heart and leads the awakening soul to the path of ascent. At some point in life, a crisis produces a degree of suffering that impels the soul to search for the cause of suffering and for its relief.

In today's world, masses of human beings flock to practitioners of modern psychiatry or psychology in search of relief from emotional pain. Such practitioners are skilled at identifying destructive behavior patterns and shedding light on specific areas of the psyche in need of healing. They aim to provide comfort and solace to individuals living through acute crises, and they are trained to help patients in longer-term care to alter self-defeating

behaviors. With rare exceptions, however, such practitioners will lack the capacity to help patients find ‘the peace that passes understanding.’

For the soul in search of the light of wisdom to relieve the pain of life, the ultimate source of healing will be found by treading the path to spiritual liberation. For the person who becomes first an aspirant to truth, then a disciple under the guidance of Higher Beings, then an Initiate entering the spiritual realm, the cause of pain can be identified in the history of preceding lifetimes. Healing comes through accepting responsibility for painful life conditions and transmuting their causes.

A willingness to atone for whatever past actions may have caused the suffering, whether specifically identifiable or not, is what enables constructive passage through the burning grounds and ultimate release from ‘the prison house’ of an unconscious personality. The soul becomes liberated to advance into a sphere of light, love, beauty, and harmony where the full spectrum of one’s energies can be devoted to the upliftment of humanity and the good of all living creatures. The relentless stress of human living, with repeated cycles of pain and material burdens, is left behind.

The fruit of complying with divine law is the transformation of a human being into a spiritual being. This is achieved through acceptance of responsibility for one’s life and submission to the requirements of the path that yield identification with one’s higher self. This path does not permit compromise. It cannot be trod while keeping one foot in the world of material comfort and security. On the contrary, it demands that the lesser self be extricated from that world so it may be transfigured by spiritual light. The transfigured being then returns to the world bringing illumination and liberation to others, elevating the human condition, before advancing fully into the realm of Spirit from where it will serve the Plan through subtler means.

Selfless service is a quality of the disciple; the state of selflessness is the attainment of the Initiate. At the end of the path that leads into the spiritual realm, the sense of self that belonged to the personality no longer exists. Individual awareness remains, along with unique capacities honed through

human experience. But the one who achieves mastery becomes absorbed into a fellowship whose mutual aim is to carry out the purpose of the Lord of this World—the creator of Earth’s life and causal agent of its evolution. Individual will is sublimated to the collective will to implement the divine plan. Such is the goal of the divine law that is designed to achieve the perfection of human beings, under the aegis of divine love.



X. Time for Unveiling Mysteries

In the modern wisdom teachings of the last century, issuing from the spiritual Hierarchy, it is prophesied that mystery schools will be established in the coming age. These schools will expose seekers of truth to the pathway into the spiritual realm and provide assistance on the journey. Relatively little was written about them in the past as the content of these future schools was deemed beyond the grasp of esoteric students of that time. Now, with the advent of new generations of seekers and the accelerated expansion of consciousness during this transition period, it is possible to reveal more about the purpose of these academies and what they will teach.

Everything in the coming age will hinge upon the realization that human beings have been endowed with an aspect of divinity, and that this higher aspect develops in the ripeness of time under the right circumstances. This realization will spread with the formation of these new schools and will vitalize the new civilization and its culture. The livingness of the soul will become the foundation of a new reality for humankind. It is this divine self, which can perceive the inseparability of lives, that will engender cooperation and bring peace to the world.

Teachers in these schools will be members of the Kingdom of Souls who will embody what awakening humanity is evolving toward. Their radiation of divine love and wisdom will remove much of the mystery surrounding the Path. They will personify the goal—the fruit of the arduous journey—while offering guidance and support for those struggling to advance.

Enlightenment will be encountered in and through their presence. Tomes of wisdom teachings composed over centuries will be telescoped through the presence of Beings who have mastered these teachings. Many of those who will form the corps of master teachers in these new schools will descend from the Abode of Light for the first time in thousands of years to serve as outposts for divine light to enter the human realm.

Central to their instruction will be the reality that all is energy: that our universe is composed of infinite streams and waves of energy set in motion by consciousness, whether for good or for ill. As soul consciousness expands and humans discover they are inextricably part of a single planetary life, and that their thoughts and actions directly impact this unitary life, the world will change. That realization will stand as the dividing line between past and future. As the Aquarian age unfolds, the soul's awareness of essential unity will become the guarantor of a benevolent world order.

Even now, there is a growing recognition among 'lightworkers' that the illusion of separation has been responsible for ceaseless suffering within all the kingdoms of nature and is now responsible for the destruction of Earth's biosphere. The longer this illusion persists, the greater the harm to all living creatures. The antidote to this illusion is exposing the reality that a single, unbreakable web of energy underlies and vitalizes the entire visible world of form—on this planet and in the cosmos. This is the basis of the notion that modern scientists have come upon: the flapping of a butterfly's wings on one side of the world can be felt on the other side.

The great shift now underway is more seismic than understood by all but a handful of human beings. It will involve a radical change in perception: from seeing only material forms, which *appear* to be separate, to seeing the life *within* the forms—etheric bodies of light that vitalize the outer form and are the true form of the soul. These bodies of light are enmeshed in the subtle web of energy that enfolds all of life. Such understanding will be central to the curriculum of the schools of higher wisdom and will in time become the backdrop to life in the new world.

This shift in perspective, woven into the Divine Plan for humanity and the future of our Earth, will be the engine of conscious evolution in the coming era. As the new age approaches, it is part of the plan for individuals drawn to a life of spirit to gain a fuller picture of the path of return to the spiritual realm. There is one universal path by which seekers of every background learn to transcend the human realm and close the gap between humanity and the

realm of Souls. Dwelling in that realm are Beings who are working out the plan of evolution and are in need of human cooperation at this momentous turning-point.

A good deal of what has been written in this small book was viewed in the past as 'esoteric.' It was intentionally hidden from most human eyes as a means of protecting what is inherently sacred knowledge from distortion and potential abuse. Moreover, until the present time this knowledge would have remained impenetrable to most spiritual seekers. Now, with the whirlpool of change engulfing the planet and removing humanity from the security of its ancient moorings, there is a greater readiness to consider realities that were previously unfathomable.

It is our profound hope that the principal ideas conveyed in these pages will find fertile ground in this climate of growing openness to spiritual truth. Yet we understand that this document will not be read or understood by many. It is intended for the few who are the genuine pilgrims into the New Earth, and who are forging a pathway for the many who will follow in the ripeness of time.

As we close this text it is incumbent upon us, members of the Hierarchy, to urge readers to view everything occurring in the world right now—including the most horrific and abominable human abuses—as fitting the purpose of the Lord of the World. With this understanding, it is possible to see how unspeakable evil can be turned toward good. In light of the goal of the forces of evolution, ghastly scenarios appearing across the globe can be viewed as wake-up calls to humankind. It is the awakening of the human soul that will clear the stage for the birth of a new world.

In the future, we, your Elders, will draw ever closer to all who wish to serve the Forces of Light in building a world conducive to the flowering of the Soul

of Humanity—for the good of our Earth. This is the heart of the divine plan for the coming age, now unfolding.

