



“You would have no power over me unless it was given to you from above...”

That statement by the Master from the book of John tells us how a person on the mystical path views the world. It is essential that we be cognizant of the nature of the conceptual world so that we are not hypnotized into accepting power in any material effect. The antidote to all forms of material power is *peace*. Peace is the activity of the Christ – the Divine Spirit within all humanity that functions to dissolve the false and reveal the truth. When we realize that disease, tyranny, and the threat of death are the weapons of failure, that realization eliminates both the fear and attraction those appearances might have. When the activities of this world no longer elicit a response, you, the mystic, are at the standpoint of experiencing the peace that brings understanding.

We are witnessing at this time a convergence of beliefs and circumstances that challenge the accepted norms of society, and perhaps that is a good thing. Not only have we been confronted with a global pandemic that makes us doubt the omnipotence of God, but we also see the power to rule and influence people reach the point of fracture. Who really has power in the modern world? Is it politicians and government or is it social media? Is it an informed citizenry that decides the best course of action for society, or is it the beast of lies and misinformation manipulated by various special interests wanting to decide our fate? The one thing the mystic knows is that the problem can never be solved from the same belief system that created it. So, the mystic can either shove the problem away, recognizing its impotence, and turn inward to the realization of the truth, or he or she can embrace the problem in peace and love. You’ve probably heard the phrase to “take the problem into meditation.” That doesn’t mean that you accept the problem as an issue, but that you let the light of your consciousness – the one infinite consciousness appearing as you – reveal the solution. Either approach is valid. At times our attitude is “get thee hence!” At other times it’s “come now, let’s reason together spiritually.”

The opening statement of this essay has been the rationale for the religious world to step away from the fact that God is omnipotent. “Yes, God is all-powerful, *but* He can delegate pain and suffering if He so desires.” That “but” turns spiritual reality into a relative activity. It questions the omnipotent and benevolent nature of God – if God is all good, why is there evil in the world? Does that “but” mean that God is not universal, unconditional love? That “but” reinforces the belief in a rewarding and

punishing God, and it takes us out of the mystical realm and puts us right back into the world of competing forces. And it misses the point of what the Master meant.

What that statement from the book of John is actually revealing is the principle of oneness. There can be no opposite in one. Moses demonstrated that. He showed how a person in conscious union with God can nullify whatever power the mental realm can produce. But the way Moses defeated the forces of tyranny and bondage was by a power that appeared to come from beyond himself. Jesus, on the other hand, brought Pontius Pilate into the equation of oneness. He did not see Pilate as a threat. He saw him as part of the whole; not an evil man spreading oppression, but a child of God, just like everyone. Where Moses confronted material power, Jesus brought material power into his realized consciousness of peace. Where Moses appeared to use the power of God to overcome temporal power, Jesus did not resist that power, and he witnessed it dissolve in his consciousness of love. He walked into the darkness of humanity's greatest fear – death – and faced the cross with the assurance that life is spiritual and eternal, and nothing in this world can alter it. Even though it took days for him to fulfil this realization, the resurrection was witnessed by many and the understanding of the nature of peace that was revealed through his resurrection was given to humanity. The peace of Christ Consciousness, and the silence it produces, is the most powerful thing in existence.

As individuals we face the cross every day. As citizens we choose whether to stand for the truth or not. As people looking at mortality around the globe, we can reject that appearance of disease and death and shove it out of our awareness. That is a valid treatment as long as we replace that image in thought with the truth of God's omnipotence and incorporeal reality. We can't ignore an appearance and call it illusion and expect any change in the outer picture without the realization of the presence of God within. We have to bring the consciousness of truth into our mind until the peace comes. It is the peace that not only reveals the truth, but it also puts us in a place of harmony where there is no fear. The other way of treatment is as the Master demonstrated. He looked evil in the eye and knew there is only one; one Life, one Self and one Love. There is nothing to overcome in oneness. There is nothing to change when all that the Father has is complete, whole and in Divine order right now. For those out in the world, working to alleviate pain and suffering, working to bring about justice and truth to your fellow citizen, the way of love allows you to be in the world yet not of the world. Your inner realization of oneness is more powerful than any temporal condition, and the peace you acknowledge within yourself opens the awareness in all you meet to their own spiritual potential within. Peace be unto to you! Be still and listen in the silence!