

PSYCHO-SCIENTIFIC FRONTIERS

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Pastor Johannes Greber

Communicating with God's World of Spirit – its laws and its purpose

Personal experiences of a Catholic priest

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6. 0 Messages from the good World of Spirit concerning religious questions

6. 1 Introductory remarks (By Priest Johannes Greber)

And they will all be taught by God.
(John 6:45)

The teachings received by me relating to the laws governing spirit communication with the material Creation, as well as all my personal experiences in that connection, shed so much light on events related in the Bible that I had not been able to understand theretofore, that all obscurity was dispelled. Moreover, they enabled me to understand many things that I heard or read of afterwards, concerning occurrences of an extraordinary nature.

However, the *great religious questions* were what concerned me most of all.

It was with respect to them that I most wanted certainty.

I was a clergyman, and had devoted my life to the religious instruction of my fellow believers. Hence, it was but natural that I should be primarily interested in discovering whether everything that I had so far believed and taught was true, or whether among the tenets of my church there were any that were at variance with the truth. Although I could scarcely have foreseen that such discrepancies would prove as numerous and as wide as I subsequently to my great surprise found them to be, I was prepared for some such discovery from the first.

In later years I read that the Catholic Church itself and Catholic writers had, in their writings about “spiritism”, issued urgent warnings against so-called “*revelation spiritism*”, that is to say, precisely against that which any earnest seeker after the truth is most particularly desirous of. Whoever, like myself, conducted *spiritistic gatherings as genuine Divine services* in the manner of the early Christians was not looking for spirit phenomena that were as interesting as possible, which is the aim of ordinary occult séances. Rather, I wanted to get in touch with the same good spirit world that had instructed the people of Biblical times. It was from this spirit world that I hoped to learn the truth concerning the most important questions of human life.

- *I wanted to be enlightened about the relationships between the Here and the Beyond. Everything else was of secondary importance to me.*

Looking at the question from the standpoint of the “churches”, I could see why they would warn people against a “revelation spiritism” as practiced by me.

- *For, once we acknowledge the possibility that human beings can be initiated into the full truth by direct communication with God’s spirits even today, the foundations of the churches begin to totter.*

Considering their *self-contradictory* creeds, the churches will then be in danger of losing their adherents, for mankind will no longer have to depend on the clergy in their search for the truth, but will, through their communication with God’s spirit world, be in possession of the same *direct path* to the source of truth that the people of Scriptural times had.

- *It is the instinct of self-preservation that drives the churches to oppose spiritism in general and “revelation spiritism” in particular. The battle waged by them is the same as the battle Herod chose to fight in defence of his kingship when he learned of the birth of the King of the Jews.*

The battle of the churches against *Divinely ordained* spirit communication will, however, be as futile as was Herod’s battle against God’s emissary.

The truth, that the good spirit world can communicate with human beings and enlighten them concerning the great and important questions of the Beyond independently of any church or clergy, will prevail with mankind. As for the churches, it will one day be said of them:

Matthew 2:20: ‘For they who sought the child’s life are dead.’

- *What the churches of today are preaching to the ignorant multitude is not the truth.*

The answers given by God’s spirit world to questions about

- *God,*
- *God’s Creation* and its fate,
- about *Redemption,*
- about *Christ*, his life and work,
- about the *church* and the sacraments,
- about *heaven and hell,*
- and about the origin and *final goal of all of Creation,*

differ greatly from what today’s churches preach.

6. 2 God (Indoctrination from the SPHERES of LIGHT)

Can you attain the original principles of God
or fathom the infiniteness of the Almighty?
(Job 11: 7)

You want me to enlighten you concerning God, but what can I tell you that you would understand? You do not understand even the lowest creatures about you; you do not understand yourself even. You cannot comprehend the smallest stone by the wayside, or the most insignificant worm of the fields. You are utterly ignorant of the most commonplace objects that meet your eye, and yet you ask me to teach you about the Supreme Being, to give you understanding of something purely spiritual! That is impossible, seeing that you lack all the concepts required to enable you to grasp these highest of truths.

Wisdom 9: 15-16: ‘For the ephemeral body weighs down the soul, and its earthly body encumbers the thinking spirit. You hardly fathom what is upon this earth and only with great effort do you find things that lie right in front of you. But who has penetrated the secrets of heavenly things?’

“There is only one thing that each of you can reason out for yourselves by logical thinking:

- *There must be some Cause for the existence of everything in Creation.*

Just as it is impossible to conceive of a clock without assuming the existence of a clockmaker, so it is impossible to conceive of the greatest and most accurate timepiece of all, the Universe, without assuming the existence of a great master who built this timepiece with its trillions upon trillions of wheels, all of them so perfectly geared and running so accurately that the astronomers of today can calculate what the exact relative positions of the various wheels will be thousands of years from now.

Psalms 14: 1: ‘The Creator of this timepiece, whose greatness surpasses the grasp of the human mind, you call ‘God’. It should, therefore, be obvious to everyone that a God must exist, and only fools say in their hearts: There is no God.’

But as to the *nature of God*, that is something I cannot explain to you, any more than I can explain the *Cause of the Divine existence*. It would be like trying to explain the calculations of a planet’s orbit to a four year-old child, who would naturally lack all knowledge of astronomy and mathematics and of all the principles, formulas and equations involved. If it takes even your greatest astronomers years to calculate the orbit of a single star, a person unfamiliar with the first inklings of that science would be driven mad if one attempted to teach him something utterly beyond the reach of his understanding. In the same way, you would be driven out of your senses if I were to try to fill your mind with ideas that are quite incomprehensible to you and that your understanding could not assimilate. You yourself would be forced to admit:

Psalms 139: 6: ‘Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; I cannot comprehend it.’

Other than what you already know about God, there is little I can tell you.

Your own reasoning teaches you that God is a creative spirit, endowed with a will, that orders all things sagely; similarly, it shows you His omnipotence, wisdom and greatness, so far as the human mind is capable of grasping it. The Scriptures enlighten you further as to the way in which He rules the world, as to His wonders and His love and mercy for His creatures. All I can do is offer you a

more precise explanation of the truths contained in the Holy Writ concerning God and call your attention to *erroneous interpretations* contained in the teachings of your various creeds about God and His attributes.

The fact that *God is a spirit* is one thing on which all religions agree, and for which you have the word of Christ:

John 4: 24: ‘God is spirit, and those who worship Him should worship Him in spirit and in truth.’

A point on which they do not agree, however, is that this highest spirit has form. Many people think that form is associated with matter only, but not with spirit. This is wrong.

- *The material world is a copy of the spiritual world, and since all material things have form and shape, so, too, do all spiritual things, including God.*

In fact, there is nothing that has no form, in the material or in the spiritual world. Beauty is perfection of form, a statement that is equally true of the realm of spirit. God is the perfection of beauty and, hence, also the perfection of form.

God as an integral, thinking and planning being is a personality, and there can be no such thing as a personality, an ‘ego’, *without* form and shape.

God as the highest spirit *differs* from all created spirits, and difference is possible only where distinguishing features exist. Again, features can exist only where there is shape and form. Because God has form, He can be seen by the other spirits. All who go to Him will see Him face to face, as He is. For this reason, Moses begged God to travel in person with the people of Israel:

Exodus 33: 15: ‘If thou dost not come with us in person, then let us not leave this place.’

And the Lord said unto Moses, ‘This request, too, will I grant you.’ (*Exodus 33:17*)

And again, Moses asked:

Exodus 33: 18-20: ‘Show me, I pray Thee, Thy face.’ ... But God said, ‘Thou canst not see my face; for man shall not see me and live.’

God therefore has a figure and a countenance, and can be seen by spirits, though *not by human eyes*. “Inasmuch as God possesses personality and form, He is not omnipresent in the sense in which you understand the word. It is true that He is aware of all things and of all events through the force that emanates from Him, for everything in existence owes its being, its perpetuation and its functions solely to the force disseminated by God. ‘In Him we live, move and are.’ Through His power He maintains contact with everything that exists; nothing can escape His influence. *But as a personified spirit He is not everywhere*. That is why you pray: ‘*Our Father, who art in heaven.*’

Psalms 33: 13-15: ‘The Lord looks down from heaven and sees all His human children; from His throne He overlooks all the inhabitants of the earth, He Who fashioned the hearts of them all, who pays attention to all that they do.’

Psalm 53: 2: 'The Lord looks down from heaven upon the children of man, to see if there are any that understand, that seek after God.'

And regarding *God's dwelling* we read:

Psalm 46: 5-6: 'There is a river; its streams provide pleasure to God's city, the holy residence of the Most High. God is in the midst of it; it will not waver.' (Verses 4-5 in Protestant Bibles)

What the Holy Writ tells you about God in so many places is not figurative or allegorical, but true, with the difference that what you understand in a material sense from what is written is spiritual as it pertains to God. God's throne and God's habitation exist in fact. God is able to visit all parts of Creation in person.

It is true when it says in the Bible:

Genesis 17: 22: 'When God had ended his conversation with Abraham, He left Abraham and ascended to heaven.'

You are, of course, familiar with the many passages in the Bible in which mention is made of the coming and going of God. I cannot even begin to tell you how wonderfully God has planned the government of the Universe, for this far exceeds the limits of human comprehension.

- *You cannot picture to yourselves that spirits of God stand watch over each living being and that they report everything that happens.*

Therefore, nothing can take place without being known to God.

For this reason, you speak of God as being *omniscient*. In this you are right, although in one respect you exaggerate His omniscience, perhaps through fear of detracting from His greatness. You teach, namely, that *God also knows what decisions people will make of their own free will at some future time.*

But in this respect you are misinformed!

God knows everything that has taken place in the past and that is taking place at present. He knows every thought. As for the future, He knows those *destinies* that He Himself has planned for His creatures.

- *But God has no foreknowledge of those future events that they may shape by the exercise of their free will.*

He does not know beforehand what a creature of His will do of its own free will in all circumstances. For this reason, *He tests His creatures.* To do this would be superfluous and to no purpose if the outcome of the test were known to God *beforehand*, and God does nothing without purpose.

Again, any foreknowledge on God's part of actions within the control of His creatures would have to be predicated on laws that make future decisions *compulsory* and, hence, eliminate the exercise of free will.

To assert that something shall occur as a free exercise of will and at the same time be predestined is in itself a contradiction. Anything of which God had a definite foreknowledge would necessarily happen, for even God's knowledge is subject to *eternal laws*, and, hence, the law that 2 times 2 is 4 applies to God as well as to every other spirit.

- *In the absence of anything which might serve as a basis, there can be no knowledge or foreknowledge, not even on the part of God, for even He is bound by the axiom: 'Nothing exists without a cause.'*

If God knew for certain how His creatures were going to act of their own free will in future situations, there would have to be *a reason* for His knowledge; and the only possible reason would be that God so forcefully influences the exercise of that free will, that only *one* course is left open. This, however, would eliminate any freedom of choice on the part of His creatures.

- *Ignorance of future decisions to be freely made by His creatures does not indicate that God is in any way imperfect. It is the necessary outcome of the freedom of will, the greatest gift God could have bestowed upon His creatures.*

Just as there are many things that God cannot do because they are self-contradictory, as, for example, not even He can make 2 times 2 equal 5, so He cannot create a free agent whose future actions He can foresee with absolute certainty, in which case those actions would be bound to occur. Freedom to decide and being forced to decide in a certain way are two things that *conflict inherently*, and absolute certainty that an event will take place is invariably tied to *the absolute necessity of its taking place*.

This is an axiom that none of your theologians can refute, let them write what books they will teaching the contrary. Their conclusions are fallacies that serve only to bewilder mankind. They are utterly in the wrong when they assert that *for God there is only a present*, that for Him there is no future, and that everything that is going to happen, even the voluntary actions of His creatures, is an accomplished fact in His eyes, and therefore known to Him.

- *No more than a house that you may be planning to erect is already built are the events of the future accomplished facts with God. I might add that the very idea of freedom of choice means that there is a question whether the events dependent on such choice will occur at all, and if so, just how they will occur.*

You know that I am telling you the truth also in this, as I have done in all else. You have had plenty of proof of the fact that I am a *truthful spirit*. For this you have my oath, taken in the name of the Almighty, the true God. When I tell you that God has no foreknowledge of the voluntary actions of men, I am not detracting from His greatness; it is you who would dishonour God by teaching the contrary and thereby picturing Him to man in an odious light, for there are many people who deny the existence of God because they *cannot conceive* of a deity capable of creating beings, knowing them with absolute certainty to be predestined to everlasting unhappiness.. You teach, although you are wrong in this, that the damned will remain eternally damned. According to this *doctrine*, God is supposed to have created millions of human beings with the full and unalterable assurance that they would be everlastingly damned.

Such a God would not be a God, but a monster!

Not even the most degenerate human father would knowingly send his child to absolutely certain never-ending torment, and yet you are asked to believe that your Heavenly Father, with His infinite love, is capable of a barbarity that in a human father would be unthinkable!

- *Read the Holy Scriptures! They teach that God sends His trials in order to learn how men will act when put to the test, and what course they will choose.*

Deuteronomy 13: 4: ‘The Lord, your God, puts you to the test, in order to ascertain whether you love the Lord, your God, with all your heart and with all your soul.’ (Verse 3 in Protestant Bibles)

When God spared certain nations from falling into Joshua’s hands, thus allowing them to survive, His reason for doing so is given in the Bible as follows:

Judges 3: 1-4: ‘These are the nations that God allowed to survive, to put Israel to the test through them, namely those that had not taken part in any of the battles over Canaan: the five princes of the Philistines, all the Canaanites, the Sidonians, the Hivites.... It was through them that He wanted to put Israel to the test, in order to find out whether they would obey the Lord’s commandments, a duty which He had imposed upon their fathers through Moses.’

Of King Hezekiah, who was faithful to God, it is told:

II Chronicles 32: 31: ‘When the ambassadors appeared whom the princes of Babylon had sent to him to inquire about the miracle that had happened in the land, God left him, in order to put him to the test, so that He might know what was in his heart.’

In the Psalms you find:

Psalms 11: 4-5: ‘His eyes look around and His eyelids test His human children. The Lord tests the righteous and the godless; and whoever loves violence, him God’s heart hates.’

And in Proverbs:

Proverbs 17: 3: ‘The melting pot is for silver, and the furnace for gold; but it is the Lord who tests hearts.’

And the Prophet Isaiah tells us:

Isaiah 48: 10: ‘Know ye that I have purified you, but not found silver; I have tested you in the fiery furnace of suffering.’

The tribulations of Job as related in the Bible were *only* a test by which God sought to learn how that righteous man would behave toward Him in the hour of greatest suffering.

- *All trials to which humans are subjected by God would be mere farces, if their outcome were known to Him in advance.*

Obviously, God who knows His creatures inside out, can say in *all probability* what course they will decide upon, and we spirits also have this faculty to a great degree. Even you mortals, if you know the character of a fellow creature, are able to *predict with reasonable certainty* how he will behave and decide in this or that case. But all of this is mere conjecture, and is not the point at issue. I was speaking of *an infallibly certain foreknowledge* of a decision that depends on the exercise of free will.

- *Such unerring foreknowledge is possessed by no spirit, not even by God Himself.*

Hence, God could not foresee that some or a great many of the spirits He had created would forsake Him, and naturally could not know in advance which of them would do so. *He knew only that there was a possibility of such defection*, by reason of the fact that the spirits were free to act as they might choose.

Had God had the positive foreknowledge, as your doctrines teach, that beings which He had created would abuse their liberty of action by deserting Him, He would not have created them at all, but would have created only such of whose loyalty He could be certain.

There are two other grave errors in the concept of God entertained by your creeds, and of these I shall speak only briefly here, because they will be discussed at greater length on another occasion.

You teach of the union of *three* persons in *one* Godhead,

You maintain that there are three spirits, each of which is a true Deity, but which, when united, constitute only one God. This is human madness and the greatest absurdity.

- *There is no union of three persons and no Trinity in the sense in which you teach it. God is only a single personality. Only the Father is God. All other holy spirits are God's creatures. None of them is the Father's equal.*

Furthermore, you teach a God who inflicts *eternal punishment* and you teach of an everlasting hell.

- *Hell is not everlasting. God is love. He does not condemn any creature eternally. All those who have incurred the guilt of deserting Him will ultimately return unto Him. That is the truth, as I shall prove to you on another occasion.*

6. 3 God's Creation and Its Fate (Indoctrination from the SPHERES of LIGHT)

But Thou hast ordered all things in measure and number and weight. For Thou canst show Thy great strength at all times when Thou wilt. (Wisdom 11: 20-21)

God is spirit, and everything created by Him is spirit. It was in His image that He called into existence spirit beings in numbers so vast that no figures devised by man can even begin to express them.

In what manner the infinitely great and almighty God created the spirit world is something that you as a mortal could not understand, if I tried to explain it. Knowledge of this is not necessary to man and is of no value to the good of his soul. It is sufficient for him to know how he stands with regard to God's Creation; from this he may learn *why* he was placed on earth and *what tasks* he has to fulfill during his stay here. To teach you these things is the purpose of what I am about to tell you of the Creation.

God did not create the spirit world *at one stroke*. God is the great Creator Who, by observance of laws conceived with infinite wisdom, out of little things makes large ones, out of one makes many, out of a single seed produces the tree out of whose billions of seeds new trees grow, who builds up the family, not by calling parents and children into existence simultaneously, but by first creating the parents and endowing them with the power of reproduction, so that in time the family may grow through the birth of the offspring, and out of this family new ones may arise without limit.

God proceeded in the same way with His spirit Creation. Every law that you find on earth exists in the spirit world also. I have told you this repeatedly and insistently and shall emphasize it once more, because it is the basic truth underlying all knowledge of the Beyond, whether you believe it or reject it with a derisive smile as unbelievable.

So, you may shake your head in disbelief when I tell you that the law of reproduction *through the union of male and female*, which prevails in all of nature on earth and with all living things, must and does apply to the same extent in spirit Creation. Matter is merely the incarnation of the spirit and, hence, merely *another state of the spirit*, in which the spirit laws are not abrogated, but applied in a way adapted to matter.

Just as in material Creation there are males and females in every species, so too there are male and female spirits in the spirit Creation. There are as many male spirits as there are females, a female spirit being allotted to each male, according to God's law. They are perfectly mated and find their greatest personal happiness in complementing each other and in their faithful collaboration in the task that God has assigned to them.

- *Such spirit couples created for each other are known as 'duals', a term intended to express: 'two who belong together.'*

Sirach 33: 15: 'So look upon all the works of the Highest; always there are two and two (=couples), one belonging to the other.'

These are the marriages that were made in heaven.

- *No one but God is exempt from this pairing of male and female. This law thus also applies to the 'Son of God' who was the first being to be created by God and whom you call 'Christ'.*

The words of the Bible: 'Male and female He created them' and 'Be fruitful and multiply' apply to all created spirits.

Christ is the *highest* spirit God in His omnipotence could create. He is in every way God's most perfect image, in so far as any created spirit can possess the Creator's perfection. Hence, Paul rightly calls him 'the *image* of the invisible God, the first-born of all Creation.' (Colossians 1: 15)

- *Christ is therefore not God, as is so generally taught today, but the first created 'Son of God', His highest and most perfect creature.*

Following Christ, *six further spirits*, also called 'sons of God', came into being, but they owe the existence of their celestial bodies to the first created Son and cannot equal him in greatness, power and glory.

The second 'son of God' was the one you call '*Lucifer*' – the Bearer of Light' – after Christ the greatest of created spirits, who later deserted God.

Another of 'God's seven sons' you meet in the story of Tobias, in which the great celestial spirit that had accompanied young Tobias in human form made itself known to the youth's family with the words:

Tobias 12: 15: 'I am Raphael, one of God's seven sons.'

Except for the first created Son of God, the whole created spirit world was brought into existence not by *direct* Divine Creation, as was God's first-born Son, but came into being through that Son by way of progressive spiritual procreation. Thus, Paul writes in his Epistle to the Colossians:

Colossians 1: 16-17: 'Through Christ were created all things in heaven and on earth, things visible and things invisible, thrones and rulers, powers and forces; all things were created through him and for fellowship with him, and he stands above all things, and all have him as the source of their existence.'

Just as the whole human race owes its *physical* existence to the first human being, so the whole spirit world owes its *physical* existence to Christ. As humans have inherited *only their material* bodies from their first ancestor through many generations, while their spirit is united with their body in every instance without any collaboration on the part of their procreators, so the celestial beings owe their *celestial* bodies to the firstling of celestial Creation, to the first-born Son of God, while their spirits, coming from God, were in each case joined by God to their celestial bodies. From what

I have already told you of the difference between 'celestial' and 'material' bodies, you know how to distinguish between the two. In spirit beings the body exists in spiritual form, a subject to which Paul alludes in his first Epistle to the Corinthians:

I Corinthians 15: 40-44: 'There are celestial bodies and terrestrial bodies: but the outward appearance of the celestial bodies is different from that of the terrestrial ones.... Just as there is a material body, there is also a spiritual body.'

The spirit receives its form in what is called the 'odic body'. The spirit itself is a spark of God and shines according to the body in which it dwells.

I am now speaking metaphorically only.

But there is no other way of presenting spiritual matters to you mortals than by employing incomplete metaphors.

As you have, in terrestrial Creation, the most widely divergent genera and species of living organisms, high and low, although each one is inherently perfectly designed to fulfill its functions, so too there is a wonderful variety of genera and species among the spirits God has shaped into individual beings endowed with celestial bodies. In your Bible, you yourselves distinguish among cherubim, seraphim, archangels, angels, dominions, powers and principalities in the spirit world.

The spirit world created through Christ and united in fellowship with him formed a wonderful *living organism* in which all spirits were members of one spiritual community, although they differed in kind and perfection. Just as the limbs of a material body, though having different shapes and functions, nevertheless constitute an organic whole in which no part is superfluous while none is independent of the others, so also the created spirits formed a spiritual body of which Christ was the head, the other spirits being the limbs.

In a well-ordered kingdom on earth the king, as the head of the country, together with his ministers and his officials high and low, and the mass of his subjects, constitute a single great family in which everyone works for the common good, upon which, in turn, the welfare of the individual depends. The same was true of the great family of the spirits. Every spirit had its allotted task, great or small, but together they all formed one great and glorious unit, in which no spirit was superfluous and in which no spirit worked for itself alone, but in which all collaborated with each other at the wonderful task to be fulfilled by God's Creation. They were to share in the labours of God and, consequently, in the happiness and beauty of Him Who had called them into existence, in the glory of God and of Christ, their king, whom God had anointed.

That is why the Apostle Paul in his epistles constantly refers to the '*secret of the body of Christ*'.

Romans 12: 4-6: 'Just as our bodies have many parts and not all parts have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ. In relation to one another we are all body parts, yet such that the gifts granted to us by the grace of God differ from each other.'

Ephesians 4:15-16: 'That we may progress in everything through him who is our head, Christ, for in him the whole body is joined together as a unit in which each part has its assigned function, as a result of which the whole being grows.'

Colossians 2: 19: 'Christ is the head through whom the whole spiritual body, united and held together by its joints and sinews, grows and flourishes in God.'

This great communion of spirits is also referred to by Paul as the 'church'.

Colossians 1: 18: 'Christ is the head of the body – of the church.'

Ephesians 1: 22-23: 'God has put all things under his rule and has made him the supreme head of the church, the 'church' being his body, and the fullness of him who fulfills all in all.'

The 'church' is therefore the communion of spirits loyal to God under the rule of Christ. The word 'church' signifies the 'rule of the Lord'.. Whoever pledges his allegiance to this rule and, consequently, to God, belongs to the 'church'.

- *The true meaning of the word 'church' therefore has nothing in common with your worldly churches and religious denominations, which are the work of man, conceived in human error, and, like all of man's handiwork, ephemeral.*

What Paul describes as the '*spiritual body of Christ*' was a literal fact in the spirit Creation. All spirit beings brought into existence were members of the great spiritual organism and were subordinate to Christ, its head. They were, however, under no compulsion, enjoying *perfect liberty* and being free to follow their *own free will* in all things. All of them were truly devoted to Christ, God's regent and their king, and through him, to God. This great spiritual family was closely united in the bonds of love. Christ's rule as God's regent was not that of a despot, but one of brotherly protection. It was the protecting hand of the strong extended to shield the weak.

Their free will, which was the highest **gift** conferred upon the spirits by the Creator, made it possible for them to refuse obedience to the orders of the king whom God had set over them. The words of the Bible:

Job 4: 18: 'The Creator cannot trust even His servants, and His angels, too, are guilty of error.'

and

Job 15: 15: 'Consider: Even on His holy angels God cannot rely, and heaven is not pure in His sight.'

And yet, they are *holy spirits* so long as they recognize God's and Christ's sovereignty over them and do not, by apostasy, separate themselves from God's kingdom.

- *Unhappily the defection of a large part of the spirit world from God came about through rebellion against Christ's kingship. It was not, as you teach, a direct rebellion against God Himself, but against the regent appointed by Him.*

This was the first revolution. It took a course more human than you can imagine. It was an exact counterpart of the revolutions you have on earth. In your own uprisings, it is not the physical bodies of the revolutionists that lay the plans and attempt to carry them out, but their spirits. And if you follow the origin and history of human revolutions in all their details, you will get an essentially accurate picture of what happened during the first revolt in God's spirit world.

All revolutions are planned well in advance. They do not arise suddenly. They usually originate with some ringleader, who wins as many adherents as possible to his cause, unfolds his plans to them and promises them high offices and positions of influence in the event of success.

Those so initiated next go to work, carefully at first but gradually more openly, on the great mass of the people, without whose help no revolution is possible. This mass of so-called *followers*, who do most of the raging and shouting in earthly revolutions, generally know nothing of what it is all about. They join the movement because others do, and shout because others shout. They are, therefore, less guilty than the *ringleaders*, who considered their plans with all of the consequences thereof

beforehand and carefully prepared all the details. They know exactly what they are doing and are, hence, even when judged by human laws, subject to the greater penalties, whereas the mass of their followers are judged and dealt with much more leniently.

The ringleader in the revolt in God's spirit kingdom was *Lucifer*, the 'light-bearer', the *second* son of God, and after Christ the highest and fairest spirit in Creation. What was his aim? He was ambitious: he wanted to be the supreme ruler, being unwilling to occupy a second place, subordinate to a superior. He wanted to *take Christ's place* and to reign in his stead. He wanted to usurp his brother's place.

This plan did not come to him suddenly; it matured gradually within him, until his determination became fixed and found consummation in the sin which besmirched this high spirit.

- *God did not interfere to nip the revolt in the bud and to prevent it by force as He could have done. He leaves His creatures free to act as they choose, just as among men He does not intervene when they begin to plan a crime and prepare for its execution.*

So, He allowed Lucifer and his fellow ringleaders to proceed and did nothing to hinder them from trying to beguile the higher and more influential spirits and to lure the masses of followers with promises. It was the supreme test to which God desired to put *the whole created spirit world*, leaving it free to decide whether it would remain true to Christ as its lawful king, or whether it would desert to Lucifer.

One of the *followers*, of whom there were many in all ranks of the spirits, was a prince known in your Bible as *Adam*, the name he bore as a human being. There were countless princes like him in God's spirit kingdom, each of them, like Adam, the ruler of great numbers of subjects. Many of the princes became ringleaders to help Lucifer in his preparations for the revolt. Others, of whom Adam was one, merely supported the movement, along with greater or smaller contingents of their adherents.

The moment arrived when Lucifer and his party considered themselves strong enough to usurp control of the spirit kingdom, the more so as a large part of Michael's forces was ready to throw in its lot with them. As is also true of your revolutions on earth, great efforts had been made to win over the army to the side of the rebels. In this, Lucifer had succeeded to a great extent. God had maintained these forces, which were, in a sense, a standing army provided against any possible future need, as you also keep standing armies as a safeguard against sudden emergencies.

When the battle began and the spirits had made their choice whether to fight for or against Christ, *God intervened*.

The hour of trial was over.

Inner and open desertion had become a fact.

And the punishment followed.

Prince Michael received orders to overthrow the rebels with the legions that had remained loyal. Armed with the might of God, he carried out the command. Terrible was the fate that now overtook the one-time light-bearer and his chief henchmen. They were banished into the lowest spheres of Creation, into darkness and horror that you cannot imagine. I cannot make the real nature of the

depths of darkness comprehensible to you. This is true also of your earthly darkness. You mortals experience darkness where light totally disappears. The more the light fades the greater the darkness becomes. It therefore owes its being to the withdrawal of light, but what it consists of is beyond your comprehension.

You also know from experience that a mixture of all colours produces white and that all colours are contained in the ray of light; you know, further, that black is merely the absence of all colours. Translate these human observations to the exile of the fallen spirits from all contact with light and, consequently, with all colour, and you may form an idea of the impenetrability of the gloom to which they were consigned, even if you cannot conceive of the true nature of darkness.

The Holy Scriptures contain frequent references to this battle of the spirits and to the overthrow of the evil ones. Christ himself says:

Luke 10: 18: 'I saw Satan toppled like lightning from heaven.'

The Apostle John had a vision of the battle of Michael and his legions with Lucifer:

Revelations: 12: 7-8: 'Then a battle ensued in heaven; Michael and his angels fought with the dragon, and the dragon and his angels offered resistance. But they were not victorious and could no longer remain in heaven.'

Peter writes:

II Peter 2: 4: 'God did not spare even the fallen angels, but drove them down to hell, into the caverns of darkness, where they will be held captive until they turn their hearts to God again.'

- *The original Bible contained as its first report an account of the spirit Creation and of the defection of part of the spirit world that was similar to the description I have given you here. Subsequently, however, it was deleted.*

In considering the defection of a great part of the spirit world, men may well ask: How was it at all possible for spirits, high in rank and enjoying perfect happiness, to fall? The reason in the case of these spirits was the same as that which so often leads your own souls astray: the craving for more. He who has much *wants still more*, and he whose power is great desires to see it augmented, even at the risk of losing everything at one stroke. Do you not see the same thing exemplified in the great leaders in the history of mankind, and in a small way in everyday life?

At God's behest *Ezekiel* sang a lament about the king of Tyre. In it, he pictures in stirring words the reason for the king's defection from God as a spirit at the time of the great spirit revolt under Lucifer, which he had participated in as a *follower* and, in consequence, had been defeated:

Ezekiel 28: 12-19: 'You were the image of perfection, full of wisdom, and perfect in beauty. You were in Eden, the garden of God. Your robes were covered with an array of precious stones: sardius, topaz and jasper, chrysolite, beryl and onyx, sapphire, ruby and emerald. Wrought in gold were your edgings and ornamentations; they were prepared on the day that you were created. You were an anointed, protecting cherub; I had appointed you thereto. You dwelt on the holy mountain of God and walked amid fiery stones. You were

irreproachable in all your doings from the day you were created, until you sinned.

By consorting with Lucifer, your heart became filled with wickedness. And after you sinned, I drove you from the mountain of God and cast you, my protecting cherub, out from amid the fiery stones. You had become arrogant because of your beauty, and you ignored your wisdom in favour of your splendour. That is why I cast you down to earth....

By the multitude of your sins and the unfaithfulness of your doings, you have defiled your sanctuaries. Therefore, I brought forth a fire from within you, which devoured you, and I have turned you to ashes upon the earth in the sight of all who beheld you. You have come to a horrible end and are lost for an indeterminate time.'

'You had become arrogant' - these words best express the reason for the defection of the spirit world. The *desire to rule, not to serve*, brought about its downfall.

What, however, was the fate of the great mass of the rank and file?

They were far less guilty than the horde of ringleaders, and since God's punishments are always commensurate with the offense, He could *not*, in justice, commit them *together with Lucifer* to the same pit of darkness.

God dealt very leniently with them, condemning them to a relatively light penalty. He did, indeed, cast them out from their former glory, but only to transfer them to a sphere that, if you could see it, you would regard as heaven. It may not have been comparable to the splendour that they had enjoyed in God's kingdom, yet it answered your conception of paradise. The sphere to which the followers were transported was the '*paradise*' of your Bible.

- *It was not on this earth, as you incorrectly assume, for at that time, material Creation had not yet come into existence.*

The Biblical account of paradise as a beautiful garden, with its rivers, trees, flowers, and fruits, has led you to think of it as being on earth. You do not know that everything you have on earth in material form is also to be found in spiritual form in the spheres of the Beyond. There, too, there are shapes, habitations, rivers, trees, bushes, flowers, fruit, food and drink, gold and jewels, mountains and valleys, music and song, fragrances, colours and sounds.

You will find this statement of mine confirmed in many passages of the Holy Writ.

You find therein descriptions of the City of God with its walls and gates, its flowing waters and its blooming flowers, and all the treasures that gladden the heart. You look upon these things as metaphor. They are *not imagery*, but reality.

Did not Christ himself say:

John 14: 2-3: 'In my Father's house there are many dwellings. If it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there now to prepare a place for you, and when I

have been there and prepared a place for you, I will come back and take you with me, so that you also may be where I am.'

Did Christ not also say:

Mark 14: 25: 'I shall not drink again of the fruit of the vine until that day on which I drink it anew in my Father's kingdom.'

In the Old Testament did not the angel Raphael tell Tobias:

Tobit 12: 19: 'I partake of invisible food and a drink human eyes cannot see.'

Finally, does not the description of the fallen cherub given by the Prophet Ezekiel expressly mention the beautiful garments set with jewels and embroidered with gold, in which that spirit was clothed *before its fall*? Have I not told you, when speaking to you of od, that every spirit possesses an odic body as its spiritual body, and that your earthly bodies are merely *condensations* of the odic ones? The most perfect state of od is, therefore, not that in which it is condensed into matter, but the *spiritual* state. It is not the material body, but the spiritual body that is the more beautiful; not the material gem that is the most splendid, but the spiritual one; not material but spiritual gold that has the greater value.

- *Gold and jewels, in both material and spirit form, are nothing but wonderfully prepared od, which in one case is present in its condensed, and in the other in its uncondensed state.*

This may be hard for you to understand since you are accustomed to thinking in terms of the material world, having no true conception of a spiritual state, about which you were taught nothing in your youth. But clairvoyants, whose spiritual vision enables them to see the ethereal, can understand perfectly what I have told you. They can also comprehend the description of paradise with its trees, plants, fruits and rivers as applying to a spiritual sphere.

- *Also, what you experience, see, and hear in your dreams you do not perceive physically; all this appears to the dreamer in spiritual form and shape.*

Such was the spiritual sphere of paradise into which the rank and file of the rebels were sent, not only as punishment, but also to try them once more. It was an act of justice and kindness on the part of God to give these spirits one more opportunity to redeem the transgression of which they had been guilty through weakness. They were mere followers, who had sinned not out of malice, but because in a moment of weakness they had yielded to the tempter's enticements. They had outwardly renounced their allegiance to Christ's authority, but at heart they were still divided between Christ and Lucifer, as is the case even today with so many people. In a way, they were leaning in two directions.

But God's justice demanded that they choose one way or the other, even with regard to their convictions. By transporting them into the sphere of paradise, He therefore put them into a 'neutral zone' where they could make up their minds. The choice would have been easy enough, had they still retained their mental faculties to the extent to which they had possessed them while dwelling in God's kingdom. This, however, was not the case.

- *For as I told you when speaking to you of od, every act of insubordination to God on the part of a spirit is attended by a change in its odic body, which becomes clouded, losing its purely*

spiritual nature and undergoing a certain condensation. This not only impairs the intellect, but above all deprives the spirit of all recollection of its previous existence.

Consequently, the spirits in the sphere of paradise were unable to recall the splendour in which they had lived in God's kingdom before their fall. Could they have done so, the test to which they were submitted in paradise would have been impossible, for had they possessed any conscious recollection of their past happiness, and compared it with their actual lot, their choice would have been made without a moment's hesitation. But they remembered nothing whatever of the splendours they had forfeited, or of the spirit battle that had been fought, or of their own defection in that battle. They were aware only of *their existence at the moment*, just as you mortals are aware only of the life you are actually living and have no recollection of any previous state of existence, most people believing that their present birth as human beings is also their first life. They know nothing of their erstwhile dwelling with God or of the subsequent incarnations of their spirit on earth. Only a few have a dim awareness of having lived before.

The test provided for the spirits in paradise consisted in a prohibition laid upon them by God, the purpose of which they could not understand, and which the Bible pictures as a certain fruit which they were forbidden to eat. This prohibition extended to all partisans who, like Adam, had participated in the revolution, who dwelt in the same sphere with him and who were clothed in a similar odic body.

These spirits were the object of particular attention for the loyal hosts of heaven as well as for the sinister powers of the abyss, the former seeking to persuade them to remain steadfast and to observe God's command, the latter sparing no pains to convince the spirits that it would be best for them to ignore that command and dangling alluring prospects before them. It was the same battle that rages today for *every human being*. On the one hand he hears the insinuations of Evil, counselling the violation of the Divine laws and picturing sin in an advantageous light, and on the other, the inner voice of conscience, warning and admonishing him not to yield to temptation.

- *It is for him to decide, which of the two he will follow.*

Whenever you humans wish to attract the great mass of the people to your cause, you seek first of all to win over persons of standing in the community, and those whose judgment and course of action are likely to be the deciding factor with the masses at large.

Such also was the case with the hosts that dwelt in paradise.

Among whom towered *Adam*, once a high prince in heaven, stood out prominently by virtue of his great spiritual qualifications. It was, therefore, natural that his attitude toward God's prohibition would decide the course to be taken by the other spirits in paradise. For this reason, Evil was primarily concerned in bringing about his downfall, and for that purpose made use of a female spirit, the same one which had been allotted to Adam as his dual, and which is known in your Bible as 'Eve'. Eve fell victim to the temptations of Evil and in her downfall caused Adam's as well. Their example was followed by all the hordes of spirits dwelling in the sphere of paradise.

Through this second sinful fall, Adam and the other partisans became the property of the Evil One, and fell almost to the level of Lucifer himself. Driven from the sphere of paradise, they were hurled into the darkest depths, and from then on Lucifer was lord over them. In his own realm he was an autonomous ruler. It is true that he was still subject to the might of God, and, hence, not entirely

free to do as he chose, but God did not restrict his authority over those who had voluntarily become his subjects.

It was the terrible consequence of God's justice that Lucifer was allowed to call his own all those who had joined him. For them, there was now no escape. Even if they repented their defection to Evil, they could not go back. They had indentured themselves to the Ruler of Hell for all time. That is the contract of indebtedness of which Paul says in his epistles that it was an 'insurmountable obstacle' to the salvation of the fallen.

Things are no different in your *earthly states*. Whoever becomes the subject of a country must yield to its authorities. He may not leave its boundaries without their permission, and if the country in question goes to war with another country, he will never be allowed to join the enemy. The same thing is true of Lucifer's realm. It is in a *constant state of war* with the kingdom of God. So, it was out of the question that Lucifer would ever allow a subject of his to return to the kingdom of God.

Let me cite another example:

Whoever volunteers for service in the *Foreign Legion* is held to the terms of his enlistment. He may regret his step a thousand-fold; he may weep over and lament the hardships he has to endure, but it will avail him nothing. He is under a harsh discipline that knows no mercy. He must stay, for if he tries to desert he will be overtaken and recaptured by the legionnaires, after which his lot will be harder than ever. There is no bridge to carry him back to the home and country he left of his own accord.

Satan's dominions are a foreign legion of this sort. For those who had entered it, there was no retreat, no bridge spanning the gulf between the foreign legion of darkness and God's kingdom.

- *Not until later was this bridge built in the Redemption through Christ.*

That is why Christ, in the parable of the rich libertine and the beggar Lazarus, causes the same truth to be uttered through the words of Abraham:

Luke 16: 26: 'But aside from all this, a great chasm has been put between you and us, so that those who want to cross from our side to yours cannot, nor can you come to us from there.'

By way of a third illustration:

Consider the *fate of a soldier* who deserts his own side in wartime and goes over to the enemy. However bitterly he may subsequently repent his desertion, and much as he may long to be back in his native country, he will not be released.

I have now taken you in my teachings to the point where you have two antagonistic realms standing in unbridgeable opposition to each other: *the realm of those who are separated from God or the 'kingdom of the dead'* - and the kingdom of God. The realm of darkness against the realm of light. Lucifer's kingdom against that of Christ, here Lucifer, there Christ.

Nevertheless, God loves *all* His children, even those who were driven from their Father's home because of their own transgressions. Since He had created them through His Son, and had implanted

them as spiritual limbs in the spiritual body of Christ, He was desirous that these severed limbs be reunited with His Son's spiritual body.

Romans 11: 23: 'Those, namely, who do not remain in apostasy shall be grafted in again, for God is well able to graft them in again.'

However, this re-grafting of the limbs broken from the tree of life, this re-incorporation of the severed parts into the life-giving organism of Christ's body, was possible only *if freely desired* by the apostate spirits. God had given them a free will. It was of their own free will that they had joined the rebels in the spirit battle, some as ringleaders, others as followers. When these followers, again subjected to trial in the sphere of paradise, had fallen a second time, it was again by their own free choice. So, by their own free choice they should have to raise themselves anew and return to the house of the Father.

This did not seem possible.

First, the return of Lucifer and his chief lieutenants had to be out of the question, for fallen pride turns into sullen spite that would rather remain unhappy than humble itself.

The way of thinking of the rank and file, those spirits that had been deluded into joining the revolt, was still *very* different from that of their leaders, yet they saw no hope of being saved from the abyss.

- *Where no hope of salvation exists, the will to achieve it is absent, and where the will is lacking, no effort is made to prepare the way to salvation.*

Even if these spirits had possessed the will to escape, they would have faced an insurmountable obstacle in Lucifer's control over them, which even God, because He had granted it, could not curtail.

Wisdom 11: 26: 'But God's ways are wonderful, and His wisdom finds means to achieve every end. 'But Thou sparest all: for all are Thine, Oh Lord, Thou friend of all life. For Thy immortal spirit is in everything.'

After the defection of the spirits, God therefore determined *upon a plan* by which He would recover those who had forsaken Him.

God's Plan of Salvation is the great secret imparted to Paul and to the other Apostles by spirits that Christ sent to them, but even the Apostles did not dare to reveal this plan in its entirety to the early Christian congregations. Most of the plan would have been *incomprehensible* to them. In their case, too, it had to be left to the spirits of God, speaking through mediums, to instruct these congregations little by little in the whole truth, much as I am instructing you at this moment. You too will find it difficult at first to grasp the full truth of God's Plan of Salvation. Mortals cannot, as Paul repeatedly told the early Christians in his epistles, digest solid food, but must at first be fed with milk, as infants are fed.

- *The truth in its full grandeur and in its entirety is the solid spiritual food fit only for those who have acquired spiritual strength. A selection of truths that are easily understood is the 'milk' that is given to those who are still infants in the faith and its truths.*

What I shall give you in my following teachings will not be milk, but solid food, as indeed there was much solid food in what I have already related to you. I shall not content myself with merely apprising you of the truth concerning the great questions of the Beyond. Rather, I want you to gain a thorough *knowledge of the fundamental causes behind the individual truths* from my teachings.

- *For only an understanding of the underlying causes of events satisfies the spirit.*

6. 4 God's Plan of Salvation (Indoctrination from the SPHERES of LIGHT)

What we say is wisdom in the eyes of those who are ready to receive it, but it is not the wisdom of this world... We proclaim God's mysterious, hidden plan, which He conceived before the time began for our glory. (I Corinthians 2: 6-7)

After the revolt of a great part of the spirit world, God determined upon a plan for saving the unfortunate beings that had fallen into the abyss, and for bringing them back into His kingdom.

His clemency would be extended first of all to the less guilty, those countless hosts that had committed the sin of ultimate desertion when they were subjected to renewed trial in the sphere of paradise. Only after these had been saved, would their corrupters, Lucifer and his lieutenants, be allowed to return to the house of the Father.

God is just.

- *Those who had been misled were guilty of weakness only, but those who had led them astray had sinned with premeditation. Since their offenses had been fundamentally different, so too would be their punishment and their respective paths of return from the abyss.*

The first step toward salvation was God's creation of *spheres of progress* or *improvement*, ranked according to laws incomprehensible to you and conceivable only by the infinite wisdom of God. In his letter to the Ephesians, Paul refers to these steps by which spirits may ascend out of the darkness toward God, when he mentions the spheres of development that God created in order to carry out His resolution that all would once again be reunited with His Son. At this point the original text makes use of the metaphor of the building of a house with its several stories. If you take this metaphor in a spiritual sense, you will more easily understand what I am about to tell you of the 'spheres of improvement' for the fallen spirits.

- *What you call 'hell' is the lowest stage to which all fallen spirits were sent.*
- *But even hell has a number of spheres of progress through which a spirit may work its way upward by a change of heart, until it reaches the first of the terrestrial spheres.*

These begin with the stage of the lowest forms of animal life and advance through the stages of rocks, plants, herbs, flowers, and the higher beasts, arriving finally at the stage of the highest animals, known to you as 'human beings'.

- *These terrestrial spheres exist not only on your earth, but also on other heavenly bodies. There are, therefore, many stages parallel to those on your earth.*

The terrestrial stages exist not only in the material form that you see before you in the animal, plant and mineral kingdoms, but there is also a corresponding *spiritual* form and, in consequence, there are spiritual animal, plant and mineral kingdoms embracing the most varied orders and species of living beings, which in the spirit kingdom are clothed in odic bodies, the counterparts of the *material* bodies you see on earth.

- *Spirits parted from their material bodies by corporeal death return to the respective parallel spirit spheres, where they remain until they are reincarnated by rebirth on earth.*

- *Spirits that have not progressed are reincarnated in the same stage as often as may be necessary to make them fit for reincarnation in a higher one.*

Each stage of advance required a special act of God for the planned physical shaping of the spirits. To this end He embodied the odic figures of pairs of spirits in the form peculiar to that stage and endowed them with the power to reproduce the bodies of this stage. The spirits themselves, however, are incorporated into the bodies thus procreated according to fixed laws of the spirit world.

You mortals indeed cannot understand the 'how' of all these processes, any more than you really understand the processes of nature that go on all around you, although you witness them daily with your own eyes.

Human science addresses itself to the *question of descent*, particularly with that of the descent of man from the apes.

- *There is no such thing as physical descent of a higher form from a lower one. Plants do not produce animals, nor do the lower animals produce the higher forms. Every form of life breeds true to kind, although within each species there are many races, the individuals belonging to races of the same species being capable of reproduction with one other.*

Man belongs to the order of the apes. He is the highest race of this order, and you are correct in saying that the ape is the lowest form of man and that man is the highest of the apes. Man is, therefore, the highest animal on earth. Nevertheless, he has *not* descended physically from the ape, in spite of the fact that in point of physical development, the ape most closely resembles him.

Before its first incarnation in a human body, the spirit of a human being inhabited the body of an animal. It is therefore the same spirit rising through the different stages of evolution and coming ever closer to perfection.

These stages themselves undergo no physical changes. They are the same today as they were millenniums ago. Only in the course of the ages, certain species *died out* because spirits were no longer incarnated in them. God created other, higher forms, in which those spirits are incorporated for which the extinct species had previously been designed. The extinct species had served as *intermediate stages* in their evolution upward. When these disappeared and the *higher* forms took their place, the spirits in question were compelled to wait longer before they could be born into the higher species that had replaced the extinct ones.

So it is that you find to this day the physical remains of extinct species of plants and animals that lived in former ages.

- *There is no regression of a spirit from one stage of progress to a lower one, although a spirit may remain at the same stage for a long time.*

As I have already told you, a spirit that has at its earthly death not progressed during that stage of its incarnation must be reincarnated in the same stage again and again until it is fit to enter the next higher stage. That is true also of humans. If, during its life on earth, a spirit has not made sufficient progress on the road leading to God, it must go through life again as a human being.

- *Every life is an examination: whoever fails to pass, must try again until he succeeds.*

These are Divine laws that apply with equal force to all Creation.

- *There is nothing capricious about the ways of God.*

When I told you that a spirit does not regress into a lower stage, the reason is that, although it may have backslid in one respect, it will have advanced in another, so that a balance is struck. This, too, is governed by Divine law.

You can form no conception of the ages that elapsed from the moment of the fall of the spirits to that day on which the first fallen spirit was fit to be incarnated in human form.

II Peter 3: 8: ‘With God a thousand years are as one day.’

Christendom today is ignorant of all these facts, and they run counter to your own previous ideas. But should I conceal the truth from you because you may find it beyond belief and because your fellowmen may scoff at it? You have the opportunity of inquiring into these truths during the spirit communications at all sorts of Divine spiritistic services, and you will find my statements confirmed everywhere. Unfortunately, the important facts I have just revealed to you *have been deleted* from the Biblical account of the Creation. Scarcely any of them have been retained.

- *This account says nothing about the Creation of spirits by God,*
- *nothing of the revolt and secession of the spirits,*
- *nothing about the spheres of progress, nothing about the shaping of the odic bodies of the fallen spirits in various stages,*
- *and nothing about the incarnation of those odic bodies into earthly substance.*

Your Biblical story of the Creation of the world describes it as if it were an original and entirely independent creation, quite unconnected with the creation of the spirits and their fall.

- *The original Bible contained all of these facts!*

But when the Holy Writ was revised later, the Powers of Darkness were at work to deprive mankind of the knowledge of how things are related in God’s Plan of Salvation and to withhold from them the consolation of knowing that ultimately *everything will return unto God.*

I Timothy 2: 3-4: ‘For it is God’s will that all men be saved and attain to full knowledge of the truth.’

- *It was for the very purpose of leading everything back to God that the material world was created.*

The Powers of Darkness were, of course, much better served by the doctrine of hopelessness and despair, and by the belief in an ‘eternal hell’, about which one of your poets [Dante] has written the dreadful words: ‘All hope abandon, ye who enter here.’

Such sentiments were far more acceptable to the rulers of hell than was the belief in a merciful God, who may, indeed, be angered and punish with just cause, but Who, in the end, will forgive His children and call them back to Him. The true conception of the Deity has been debased by the

doctrine of ‘eternal damnation’, designed only to inspire fear. What is more, that doctrine made it more difficult to carry out the Plan of Salvation conceived by a God Who sent to sinful and suffering humanity this message of all-forgiving love:

Isaiah 49: 15: ‘Even if a mother could forget her child, I will never forget you.’

Many passages in your Bible have shared the fate of the paintings by the old masters placed upon the walls of some of your ancient churches. In later times, so-called ‘church painters’ came and daubed their commonplaces over the masterpieces. When you carefully remove the outer layer of paint from the walls today, the ancient pictures are once more revealed, leaving the beholder enraptured over the art of the great masters. In the same way the truthful picture presented by the original Bible was defaced in later times.

- *Erring mortals revised the Biblical accounts, omitting what they could not understand or adding their own mistaken explanations. Their successors ‘improved’ further upon the previous work, adding and deleting at will.*

In this way not only was the truth crowded aside, but many things crept into the Scriptures that tend to make a travesty of the word of God.

A human poet coined the phrase: ‘*Books have their fates.*’

And unfortunately, this is true of the Bible also. Much of what it should contain has been eliminated, and much of what it does contain should never have been admitted, because it contradicts the truth.

“When some ‘churches’ refuse to acknowledge this fact and persist in regarding the Bible you have as ‘authentic’, they are serving the cause of God poorly. In fact, they are doing it more harm than good. Even the less educated, when they read the Bible carefully – and especially the account of the Creation – must realize that some of what is written there *cannot be correct.*”

God Himself complains through the prophet Jeremiah about the falsifications introduced into the Old Testament:

Jeremiah 8: 8-9: ‘How can you say, “We are wise and possess God’s law”? I tell you that the false pen of the copyist has made it into a lie. The wise are ashamed and dismayed, for they have trapped themselves. They have discarded the word of the Lord, so what manner of wisdom is left them?’

Elsewhere in the Holy Writ the truth has suffered at the hands of translators who have *rendered* certain words and phrases of the original text *so inadequately* as to distort their real meaning beyond recognition.

From what I have said you can see the reason for the great obscurity and the many misstatements to be found in the story of Creation as you have it today. Only occasional references retain *a faint glimmer of the truth.* Some of the stages of the evolution of material Creation are hinted at, but they are not consistent with the facts, whether in point of number or of sequence.

The same is true of the Biblical account of the *Creation of the first human beings.*

Here the Creation of the spirits *is confused* with the incarnation of the first spirits in human bodies. “In the first chapter of the Bible you are told that God brought man into existence as His last Creation, after the earth, plants and beasts were already there. It says:

Genesis 1: 27-28: ‘Then God created man in His own image, in the image of God created He him; male and female created He them. Then God blessed them and said unto them, “Be fruitful, and multiply!”’

It is true that God created the two spirits that were the first to be incarnated as human beings, and which, as such, bore the names ‘Adam’ and ‘Eve’, in His own image prior to their apostasy. It is also true that He created them as male and female spirits, and that He blessed their union. This, however, was not after the earth with its plants and animals had been made, but it refers to the time *of their creation as spirits*. Anything made by God in His image must be a spirit, for God is spirit, and spirit only, and, hence, not matter. Whatever He creates in His image must likewise be pure spirit, and not part spirit and part matter, as is the case with mortals.

The rest of the Scriptural account of the Creation of man contains contradictions even more flagrant. A few lines further on you are told that God made man, and, moreover, only the male, at a time when there was no other living thing on earth, whereas, according to the first account, man is said to have been made *after* all other life had been created. According to the second account, God placed man upon a barren earth, and not until then did He create a Garden in Eden, into which He brought the man. And not until then did trees bearing luscious fruits of all kinds grow in this ‘paradise’, as you call the garden. God is then supposed to have told man to cultivate the garden and protect it. Inasmuch as there was, according to the same report, nothing else on earth, it is hard to imagine whom man needed to protect the garden from.

So many sentences, so many contradictions!

Compare this incomprehensible picture with the true picture I have given you! There you see paradise as that *spiritual sphere* into which God, after the revolt of the spirits, sent the less guilty followers among the rebels, partly as punishment, partly to test them once more. Here stood the spiritual tree of the knowledge of good and evil; this was nothing less than God’s commandment, which had been given for the purpose of testing the spirits in this sphere, and whose significance they did not grasp. The observance or the violation of this commandment or rather, of this prohibition, would show whether the spirits in the sphere of paradise were prepared to take sides with God again, or whether they were fully determined to join Lucifer. Should they respond to this test by obeying God, the commandment would become for them the tree of life in God’s glorious kingdom; should they disobey, it would become a tree of death. They would then be driven from this paradise down into the spheres of Lucifer. That would be the day on which their severance from God would be complete, the day of their *spiritual ‘death’*.

Genesis 2: 17: ‘On the day you eat thereof, you will die.’

Now you understand why Adam was commanded to protect paradise, namely, to protect himself and the others against succumbing to the temptation to sin by disobeying God. Now you also understand what the Scriptures mean by saying that after the expulsion from paradise of the spirits that had shown disloyalty, they were prevented from returning there by cherubim with flaming swords. The die had been cast: they had given their allegiance to the ruler of the abyss. Henceforth the spheres of darkness were to be their lot. They had no further claim upon the fields of paradise, which will remain closed to those fallen spirits until the day on which they, on their way back to

God, have once again reached this spirit sphere of happiness as a preparatory stage for the sphere of heaven. Then they may re-enter the *spiritual* Garden of Eden, and from it ascend to that glory out of which they were once driven because of their own sins.

So, the opposite of what God is supposed to have mockingly uttered according to the report in your Bible is true. That account says that God, at the moment when countless hosts of His children were being driven into the unspeakable woe of utter exile from His kingdom, exclaimed:

Genesis 3: 22: ‘Man has become like one of us; now he knows what is good and what evil. Let him not also reach out his hand to take and eat the fruits of the tree of life and become immortal.’

These are the words of a fiend, not those of an infinitely benign God and, as a matter of fact, they are the words with which Satan mocked the deceived spirits. God, on the contrary, *wants* these spirits, *even after* their fall, to reach out for the tree of life, in obedience to His will and in their return unto Him.

The powers of the abyss, however, are intent upon preventing those spirits, which first experienced God’s clemency in the creation of the ‘spheres of improvement’, from extending their hands toward the tree of life and from returning to God. Could Lucifer have had his way, those stages would *never have been created* and the material world would *never have existed*. He would then have been able to exercise his despotic sway over those spirits without restraint and without having to fear the loss of a single one of his subjects.

I must also take exception to the way in which the creation of the first woman is described.

According to the Biblical account, God resolved to give the first man a helpmate in his isolation. To this end He is said to have formed out of the earth every beast of the field and every bird of the heavens and brought them to the man, in order that he might find a woman among them. But no suitable mate was found. In order to remedy this inconvenient state of affairs, God is said to have caused the man to fall into a deep sleep, during which He took one of the ribs out of his side and closed up the gap with flesh. From the rib, God is said to have made a woman and brought her unto the man as his mate.

As you know, this story has been made the butt of ridicule, especially among the irreligious. It is painful to see God’s act of Creation so grossly misrepresented and exposed to ridicule by man. In this instance also, Evil has turned the fair image of truth into a repulsive caricature, *through the instrumentality of its human agents* and so that the conception of an almighty and all-knowing God should be turned into something ludicrous, since to make a thing an object of ridicule is to forge the deadliest weapon for its destruction.

- *God did not prevent this distortion of the truth, as indeed He does not intervene when people want to do evil things.*

Seekers after the truth, and the righteous generally, always had the means at their command to allow them to discriminate between the true and the false, also in the falsified versions of the Holy Scriptures, being free to communicate with the good spirit world from which they could learn the truth at all times. What, then, is the true story of the creation of the first pair of human beings?

- *Adam was the first spirit to reach the point at which he could emerge from the higher orders of the animal kingdom and be incarnated in human form.*

Although his incarnation did not proceed in the manner incorrectly related in the Bible. God did not fashion a human figure out of clay and blow life into its nostrils, thus making him a man. Rather, the incarnation of the first human spirit proceeded according to the identical laws that still apply today in the materialization of spirits.

This is a subject about which I have already instructed you at length, so you know that today the *od* of so-called 'materialization mediums' is required for converting the spirit forms into matter. This same law was applied by God in the incarnation of the first human spirit.

Since, naturally, no human materialization mediums were available to supply the required *od*, God took the *od of the earth* in a composition that corresponded to that of the human body. The *odic* mixture was the same as that out of which the human body develops when it grows today. Already Paul said that

I Corinthians 15: 38-39: 'God gives each form of life its own characteristic body. Not all earthly creatures have the same material body. The body of man is unlike that of the four-footed beast, as this again is unlike that of a bird or a fish.'

- *The preparation of the od for the incarnation of the first man was undertaken by God's spirit world.*

The body of the first man, whom you call '*Adam*', was therefore literally taken 'from the earth', although not in the manner in which you have heretofore believed. No figure was fashioned out of clay, but the spirit limbs of that spirit being were covered with a material body, *with the aid of the condensed od of the earth*. That same body of Adam's, formed as I have described, was again dissolved into earthly *od* after his death. It had been taken from the earth in the form of *od*, and in the form of *od* it was returned to the earth. That is the law that governs all material beings.

The first man who thus came into existence was the only one of his kind. As your Bible quite rightly says, he was lonely, surrounded as he was by nothing but plants and animals, and he longed for the hour when another spirit should have progressed to the point at which it could be incarnated in human form. He therefore looked about among the higher animals to find one that at its death might be considered worthy in God's sight of being advanced to the human stage. Your Scriptural account hints at this when it tells you that God brought all the beasts unto the first man, so that he might look for a helpmate from among them.

The day came at last on which another spirit reached the human stage.

This time it was a *female* spirit, the same one which had been Adam's consort in God's kingdom and later, in the sphere of paradise, where she had been the first one to disobey, and had caused Adam to disobey likewise. As her guilt had been the greater, so too had been her punishment. Her ascent from the depths had therefore been slower, and she did not reach the level of human existence as soon as did her male dual spirit.

The story of the incarnation of this female spirit as given in the Bible of today gives a faint inkling of the truth.

The incarnation of 'Eve', as the first woman is called *in your Bible*, took the same course as do all spirit materializations. In her case it was no longer necessary for God to take the od of the earth, since a 'materialization medium', namely Adam, was available. Adam's possessing unusual mediumistic powers was due to the circumstance that the spirit world had materialized his body and was in constant mediumistic contact with him.

Just as today the materialization of a spirit is possible only when the materialization medium is in a deep trance, so it was in those times. The deep trance into which Adam fell is referred to in the Bible by the words:

Genesis 2: 21: 'God caused Adam to fall into a *deep sleep*.'

This was a mediumistic sleep, in which Adam's spirit left his body. As is the case also today, the od of the materialization medium is not sufficient to effect complete materialization and must be supplemented by substance drawn from the medium's body in dissolved form. So, in materializing Eve, the spirit world dissolved a part of Adam's physical substance and used it to fashion Eve's body. This proceeding gave rise to the Biblical account of the removal of one of Adam's ribs:

Genesis 2: 21-22: 'When Adam had fallen asleep, God took one of his ribs and formed it into a woman.'

As a rule, the materialization of spirits lasts for a limited time only, after which dissolution takes place and the od and physical substance lent by the medium is returned to him. However, in the case of Eve, permanent materialization was aimed at, and for this reason, none of the od or the part of the physical substance taken from Adam could be restored to him. Hence, the spirit world had to make good his loss, which it did by drawing upon the od of the earth, as it had done when it first formed Adam's body. This is indicated in the Bible with the words, which you have so far not understood: '*He closed up with flesh the place where the rib had been removed.*' This is how the first pair of human beings was formed, from whom the whole line of human beings was to descend by way of reproduction.

In *physical reproduction*, only the seed out of which the child's body is to grow is transmitted.

- *The spirit is united with that body only moments before birth, in conformity with laws unknown to you.*

The life of the child within its mother's womb originates with her. It is her blood that circulates through the child's body and sets its organs in motion as soon as they become reasonably ready to function, which generally happens in the fifth month of human pregnancy. This movement of the child's organs while it is still in the womb is necessary, to accustom them to the part they will have to play. It is not, therefore, produced by the child's spirit, which is not embodied until later, but by the mother. It is a process similar to that used in breaking in an engine after it has been finished and assembled. Initially, it is set in motion by outside power, before being equipped with its own, under which it will later operate. It must be broken in before it is ready for service, and the same thing applies to the bodies of developing terrestrial beings.

God's omnipotence and wisdom are nowhere more evident to thoughtful minds than in connection with nature's great secret of the coming into the world of a new human life.

The same thing being true, of course, as regards all other living creatures.

In all instances it is fallen spirits that are incorporated into bodies produced by procreation, in conformity with laws of God conceived with such wisdom that your human understanding could not grasp this Divine secret, even were I to try to explain it.

Genesis 5: 4: Adam and his wife had sons and daughters.

The brothers took their sisters as wives, so that when you read in the Bible that Cain, after slaying Abel, fled into another country and ‘knew’ his wife there, this does not mean that he first met her there, as though there were other people not descended from Adam and Eve. According to Hebrew usage, the word ‘*to know*’ refers to having sexual intercourse. It is said of Cain:

Genesis 4: 17: ‘And Cain *knew* his wife; and she conceived, and bore Enoch.’

The same words are used in speaking of Adam:

Genesis 4: 1: ‘And Adam knew his wife Eve; and she conceived and bore Cain.’

Thus, all mankind is descended from the first pair of human beings and constitutes the highest terrestrial level of progress in the ascent of the fallen spirits. This was the border of Lucifer’s jurisdiction.

- *And before the Redemption, this was the point beyond which no fallen spirit was allowed to pass.*

Being lawfully Lucifer’s subjects, none could escape from his rule, since he was unwilling to waive his right of sovereignty even in the case of those spirits that had repented of their misdeeds and longed to return to God’s kingdom.

- The surrender of this right *had to be forced upon him by a Redeemer,*

Prior to the redeemer’s coming, all human spirits were obliged to remain in the human sphere, either as corporeal human beings, or as spirits in a sphere of the same level as that of earthly beings. Beyond this lay the great gulf dividing Lucifer’s kingdom from God’s kingdom. To bridge this gulf, a victory over Lucifer had to be achieved. Later I shall give you the details about the concept of Redemption and how it was carried out.

God had planned, once Redemption was accomplished, the creation of the ‘spirit spheres’ through which the spirits of human beings could, after their earthly death, ascend to the sphere of heaven step by step. To create such spheres before the Redemption would have served no purpose, since none of the fallen spirits could have reached them, and through them attained heaven.

In this connection I want to call your attention to another truth of great importance, namely, that before the Redemption there lived a great many human beings who were the incarnation not of fallen spirits, but of spirits from heaven to whom God had granted permission to be born as human beings, in order that they might *help* others to attain the true faith in God and thus prepare themselves for the Redemption. Among these heavenly spirits that lived in human form were *Enoch, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Moses, Joshua, Caleb*, most of the *prophets, Mary*, the Mother of Jesus, and many others whose names are not contained in the original Scriptural documents. After their death on earth, these spirits returned to God’s kingdom, since, having taken no part in the defection from God, they had not fallen under Lucifer’s jurisdiction.

As for the spirit spheres that were provided for in God's Plan of Salvation and through which, by that plan, the human spirits were to ascend to God after the Redemption, they are 13 in number. I need not describe each in detail. What you, as a mortal, can understand of this subject has already been told to you personally by spirits from the several spheres in the many communications imparted through mediums for your enlightenment. From their manner of appearance and from what they said you were able to form an idea of their lot in each sphere, as well as of the general appearance of the spheres themselves.

You have seen those suffering human spirits that went into the lowest of the 13 spirit spheres after their earthly death, and from them you have learned the meaning of Christ's words: 'Cast him into the outer darkness; there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' From them, also, you learned the meaning of these words of the Bible: 'The dead know nothing.' Those spirits that were severed from God and condemned to spiritual death as a result of their unbelief during their life on earth knew nothing. They did not know who they had been as human beings or where they had lived. They did not know where they now dwelt or the significance of the horrors that they experienced in this darkness and that made them so unhappy.

You could observe that as the spirits rose into higher spheres their consciousness *broadened* and their opposition toward God *decreased*. You were able, likewise, during these communications, to distinguish the different light effects pertaining to the individual spheres, the colours ranging from the deepest black of the lowest stage, through all colours, to the most radiant white of the uppermost sphere.

- *The 13th sphere is of a white too dazzling to be endured by mortal eyes. This is the sphere inhabited by God's pure spirits. It is what you call 'heaven'.*

From what you have seen of the spirits of the lowest spheres you will have gathered how hard it is for them to struggle upward from their lamentable state.

- *For their ascent within those spheres is possible only if they turn to God.*

But you yourself have witnessed the rebellious attitude taken by these very spirits toward any thought of God. It is a great act of clemency on the part of God to allow them to reassume human form with the least possible delay, for it is easier for them to acquire a belief in God as human beings, from what they see of God's Creation and learn from their own reflections or from the instruction and example of others, than it would be in those low spirit spheres.

- *Most human spirits must go back to earth repeatedly.*

Seeing that their lives there again and again leave much to be desired and cause them to return to the lowest spirit spheres instead of fitting them for the higher stages of the Beyond. Consider the lives of most humans. Are they not wholly centred on worldly matters? How many ever even think of God, firmly believe in Him and live righteously?

- *Ever since the Powers of Evil introduced money into the world, they have had an instrument that gives them an unrestricted dominion over the majority of mankind.*

The time that the spirits of the lower spheres must spend in the Beyond before they are reincarnated in human form varies in each individual instance. It is determined in part by that spirit's

transgressions during its preceding stay on earth. God is just, and every sin must be atoned for, but He is also charitable, and never punishes His creatures as severely as they deserve.

The spirit communications from which you learned what you know of those 13 spheres came through mediums of the most *widely varied* types. This was done to provide you with evidence for the truth of these communications, for had you received the accounts of all the spheres through one and the same medium, you might have thought that they proceeded from his subconscious.

- *As you know, your modern science is always ready to resort to the word 'subconscious' when asked to explain anything in this field that it cannot account for on purely human grounds, but that it is unwilling to attribute to the working of spirits.*

The creation of the 13 spirit spheres was the last act in God's Plan of Salvation, and before it could be effected, a far more difficult problem had to be solved. What good were stages of progress from the deepest sphere of hell to the highest earthly one – the human stage – and what good were 13 spirit spheres planned for the further ascent to the height of God, as long as Lucifer refused to release any of the spirits that had sided with him and insisted on exercising his sovereignty over them, a right which God had conceded?

Who, indeed, could force Satan to waive his rights, at least over those who contritely longed to return to God?

True, God Himself could have done so, but His sense of justice had conceded those rights to Lucifer, and that same sense of justice now kept Him from diminishing them. "Only a spirit willing to enter the realm of the Prince of Darkness and to expose itself to the rigors of his tyrannical rule would have the right to do battle with him. The same right applies when a people that is oppressed and harassed by its rulers rises against its tormentors in an effort to shake off their yoke.

But it had to be a spirit that would not, by deserting God, become subject to Lucifer, and thus fall irretrievably into his clutches. It had to be a celestial spirit that, in assuming human shape, would enter Satan's dominion in body only.

- *For everything that is embodied in matter is exposed to the influence of the Powers of Evil.*

That is why evil has so great a hold over all earthly creatures, even over those that are not evil minded. The most righteous of men daily experience the power of evil and often stumble under its influence.

Thus, the undertaking would be a great risk for the celestial spirit that attempted it.

After its human birth, it would be a human being, like all other humans. It would remember nothing of its previous existence as a spirit of heaven. It would be ignorant of its own identity as well as of the mission for which it had been incarnated, and would be tempted by the Evil One to sin, like all other humans. Moreover, God would not provide any greater spiritual aid than He gave to others, for this would have offended His sense of justice. This celestial-spirit-become-human would have to earn whatever special Divine aid might be needed for solving its task by repelling all advances of Evil. In the measure in which it withstood the great temptations to sin, it would receive *more and more assistance* from God.

This is true for all humans.

On the other hand, as the measure of Divine aid *increased*, the assaults by the Powers of Evil were allowed to *increase* as well.

- *God does not allow anyone to be tempted beyond his strength.*

Children may not be as severely attacked by Evil as adults; shoulders able to bear only half a hundredweight must not be called upon to carry twice that amount.

So, the celestial spirit that was to assume human form would not be exposed in childhood to the degree of evil influences with which it would have to contend as an adult. Only after it discovered its identity and the purpose to be served by its incarnation would hell be permitted to unleash its full strength. Then the life and death struggle would begin.

That spirit as a mortal would have to *fight defensively* against Evil, which would try to induce it to abandon God. It had to be a battle that ended in the physical martyrdom of the incarnated celestial spirit, provided it remained steadfast unto death.

- *It is the recognized procedure of the Forces of Evil, when their light and intermediate artillery fail to reduce a fortress, to bring up their heaviest batteries in the shape of physical torture, and thus to try to compel surrender. For this they always find human instruments and helpers.*

If, in the face of the greatest torments of mind and body that the spirit could suffer as a mortal at the hands of the Powers of Hell and their human agents, it remained faithful and true to the last breath, then indeed it would have earned the greatest measure of Divine aid and strength which can be granted to any spirit.

Armed with this Divine power it could, after its earthly death, wage an *offensive battle* against the Powers of Hell, which as a mortal it had been able to meet in defensive combat only. Its victory over Lucifer would then be assured, since the legions of heaven would be at its disposal. "It had to be a battle like that which had once raged in heaven when Michael and his legions overthrew Lucifer and his followers.

This time, however, the battle was to be fought in hell, which the celestial redeeming spirit would invade, in order to overcome Lucifer on his own ground. Lucifer was not to be deprived of his sovereignty over the apostate spirits or to be condemned to utter impotence; the victor was only to *curtail* Lucifer's previous authority, for theretofore he had exercised it not only over those who were with him at heart, but to an equal extent over others who had intentionally sided with him, it is true, but who now repented of their action and longed to be discharged from Satan's foreign legion, in order that they might return to the kingdom of God.

Through the victory of that high celestial spirit, Satan would be forced to release the penitent spirits from his despotism, retaining the right, however, to employ every means of temptation, as before, in order to bring about another change of heart in them and to bind them to himself anew. But no longer might he keep them under his sceptre *by force* as he had done in the past. He would be compelled, as it were, to pull back his border guards from the bridge built by the Redeemer, so that no spirit desiring to return to its homeland would be forcibly prevented from doing so.

Should the Prince of Darkness consent to this limitation of his rights, which, as the vanquished one, he was *compelled* to do, and should this limitation be made explicit in the terms of the treaty of peace, its observance by Satan would thenceforth be obligatory, since God Himself was the

omnipotent and just guarantor of the treaty, even hell being subject to His might and helpless against His arm.

The consequences of such a peace would in the end be disastrous for Lucifer and his kingdom, for by it, he would lose his subjects one by one, and in the end, share the fate of a general whose entire forces have deserted to the enemy and who, when at last reduced to utter helplessness, has nothing left but to admit defeat and surrender.

In the same way, Lucifer, after having been abandoned by all, would ultimately recognize his impotence before God and be the last one to voluntarily tender his submission.

This, then, would be the day on which, under God's Plan of Salvation, there would be no more separation from Him, no more 'death'. That would be the day when all the branches once broken off from the tree of life would be regrafted onto it – the day when lamentation and sorrow would be no more – and the day when all the tears shed in such numbers by His erring children on their long road of separation would be dried by Him. That would also be the day on which the kingdom of God once again shines in all the glory it had before the fall of the spirits, and on which all of His children, who will have returned home, resume the places that had once been theirs in their Father's house.

Even Lucifer, the last and most penitent of all to cross the bridge built by his conqueror, would again be the glorious light-bearer of old, by the side of his kingly brother, Christ, whose love and wise rule he had so contemptuously spurned, and the heavens would resound with paeans of joy.

Such was the Plan of Salvation conceived by God after Lucifer and his angels had fallen, but it was revealed by Him only to his first-created Son and to a few of the highest spirits of heaven. One of them was to volunteer to undertake, *when called upon*, the dangerous mission of being born as a human being and defeating the Prince of Darkness.

They all knew what it meant for them to assume human shape. They knew that as human beings they would incur the risk of being overpowered themselves by the very foe *they had set out to conquer*, and that, in this event, the goal of Salvation could not be achieved. They knew, too, that a defeat of the spirit that was sent to earth as a redeemer would make necessary the sending of a second, perhaps to be followed by others, until the effort was successful. Nevertheless, every one of the high heavenly spirits gladly volunteered to undertake the venture.

However, Christ, the highest of created spirits and God-appointed king over the spirit world, was the first to ask to be allowed to make the attempt. It was against him that Lucifer had revolted, and it was on his account that the great division had come about. It was on his account also that the gulf between the kingdom of God and the kingdom of Darkness had opened, and for these reasons he felt that he, and no other, should build the bridge across that gulf to enable all of God's wayward children to make their way home.

God consented to the incarnation of His Son, to take place when at least some of the fallen spirits, in their ascent through the spheres of progress, had advanced to the highest earthly, ergo human, stage, and had given evidence of a desire to return to God.

The plan was kept secret from all other spirits of God's kingdom as well as from the Powers of Darkness, in order that hell might have no opportunity of thwarting it. Had the Forces of Evil known the *true purpose* of the human birth of the Son of God, had they known that his desperate struggle

against the assaults of Evil, and his agonizing death were prerequisite to his victory as a spirit over Lucifer, they would never have tempted him. They would have *done their utmost to prevent*, instead of bringing about, *his death upon the Cross*.

Only after Christ had died a Redeemer's death would the time be ripe to reveal God's Plan of Salvation to all Creation in its full, inconceivable grandeur, for then its revelation could no longer do harm, but only good. The 'rough brickwork' of the structure of salvation was finished and could no longer be destroyed. The completion of the inside work would rather be hastened by proclaiming the plan, for this completion would lie in the fact that the spirits that had once forsaken God would now return home over the bridge the Redeemer had built for them.

Every part of God's Plan of Salvation that might be revealed to mankind as an anchor for its hopes was to be found in the original Bible, including the truths concerning the Creation of the spirits, their revolt, their fall, the creation of the spheres of rehabilitation as the means for a gradual ascent from the abyss, and the coming of a great, God-sent envoy as deliverer.

- *Except for the announcement of the Messiah to come, everything was expunged from the sacred writings of the Old Testament little by little.*

Mankind no longer understood these truths, and what humans do not understand they generally regard as folly and dismiss from their minds.

This was true also in the days of Christ.

Whatever lay outside of people's daily experience or conflicted with the beliefs inherited from their ancestors could not be brought home to them then, any more than it can today. For this reason, Christ did not devote himself to expounding those truths in detail, but confined his teachings to proclaiming the truth concerning God, the fulfillment of the Divine will, and his own mission on behalf of the Father.

Everything else he left to the *truth-bearing spirits* that he planned to send to mankind.

But even after God's spirit world had arrived in the role of teachers, only those who had made progress in the knowledge of the truth were able to comprehend the Divine Plan of Salvation. For the others, it was a diet too hard to digest. There were even Christians who considered Paul insane when he preached on the subject. (II Corinthians 5: 13) And when Paul spoke before King Agrippa, in the presence of the governor Festus, about the revelations which he had received, Festus said with a loud voice:

Acts 26: 24: 'Paul, you are out of your mind. Too much study is making you mad.'

You also, when you lay my teachings before your fellowmen, will be told that they are absurd fancies, and that you have gone out of your mind.

- *It has been the fate of the truth in all ages to be branded as untruth and folly, while at the same time obviously incorrect doctrines regarding the Beyond are thoughtlessly accepted as true, are preached and raised to the status of religious creeds.*

What I have told you of the Divine Plan of Salvation you will find confirmed in every detail later, when I shall disclose to you Christ's whole doctrine in context as it was revealed to the faithful,

partly by Christ himself, partly by the truth-bearing spirits speaking through the Apostles and through mediums.

Then we will also draw a comparison, which will be most instructive for you and your fellowmen, between *the real teachings of Christ* and the Christianity of today.