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The Path to Wisdom

THE WAY OF TRUTH INSTRUCTION
THROUGH METAPHYSICAL TERMS
AND DEFINITIONS

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"The beginning of wisdom is the
beginning of supernatural power."
PARACELSUS

The Unity Press
PUBLISHERS

UNITY SOCIETY
ROOMS 606-10
33 West 39th Street
NEW YORK

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*Manufactured in the United States of America
by H. Wolff, New York, N. Y.*

What is the meaning of Absolute?

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Absolute, sometimes used as a synonym for God, signifies absence of limitation, freedom from restriction, unconditioned perfection. Truth is absolute; it cannot be altered to fit the opinions or beliefs or desires of men. Nothing they think or believe about it can affect its calm imperturbability. Nothing can be added to it and nothing taken away from it. Absolute Truth is ultimate, infinite and eternal. It is the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the ending, the Omnipotent Principle we call God.

What is Affirmation?

Affirmation is a positive phase of being. It may be expressed by thought or word or general attitude of mind. It must be based upon Absolute Truth or its manifestation will be imperfect. "Thou shalt decree a thing and it shall be established unto you." Are we decreeing pain, old age and death for our bodies; lack and failure for our affairs; inharmony and discontent for our minds? Let us make our affirmations in accordance with Absolute Truth. Positive thought, so expressed, produces health, peace and perfection.

What is Appearance?

The real of anything is the way it really is; the

way we see it is its appearance. Correct thinking is thinking according to truth, or as things really are. Every time we think or act contrary to this doctrine we sin, or fall short of our mark of perfection. Sin produces disastrous results which, although distressing to their owner have no reality except as power is given them by those who believe in their actuality. They have no archetype in the realm of Spirit, but are merely false appearances in a world of sense.

What is Assurance?

Assurance is defined as full confidence, boldness, firmness of mind, undoubting conviction. It is a spiritual quality implying faith, self-confidence and self-reliance. It is a necessary element in any success. No man can succeed without a strong conviction and the courage to stand behind it. Assurance is a quality of mind which any person may cultivate and it comes from positive belief in the truth of the subject under consideration. We may call it the consciousness of God in the soul; a sustained consciousness of His presence and power and a sublime faith in our ability to direct and use this power in our daily lives.

What is the significance of the word Channel?

A channel is that through which anything flows

or passes. Life must flow; its urge must be expressed; its energy must be made active. It seeks its highest expression through humanity, which is a channel for the outflow of divine Intelligence. Life's eternal energy must be expressed or it will stagnate and become dull and inert, therefore useless and uninteresting. Man is a channel for all that God is; work, or self-expression is a channel for all that man is.

What is the Christ Within?

The spirit of man is ever yearning to express the divine image which was stamped upon his soul "in the beginning." The continuous, insistent impetus he feels is the God-mind thinking through its image and likeness, and seeking to express itself in distinctive embodiment. In Jesus dwelt the true realization and manifestation of the Christ. In him the ideal man became the actual; in his Christ spirit he saw continually the pattern of perfection. The Christ within each one of us is the consciousness of the perfect ideal.

What is Communion?

Communion is mental or spiritual contact. "Enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door" upon noise and distraction, upon mortal delusions and sense demands, then the soul may

approach its Creator, quietly and alone, and "pray to its Father which is in secret." Within each one is the Presence. Within are the wondrous things we are seeking; within is the place of adjustment—the mountain of illumination where we may commune with God. Here we may rest silently, in the security of the Father's understanding, for He knows what we have need of before we ask Him.

What is Compensation?

Compensation is a principle of action and re-action, whereby a given effort rebounds with an equal and opposite force. It is a law of vibration, effective alike in the natural and spiritual worlds. What you set in operation re-acts as a boomerang, returning to you with the same degree of force that you put into its inception. As you sow, you will reap. As you give, you will receive. As you judge, you will be judged. Each one is meeting a definite re-action of his own thought. Each receives, with unerring exactitude, that which he gives out. Justice and equity return to him. What you put into life is your own and nothing can keep it from you.

What is Concentration?

Concentration has been called the master-key to

success, but it is more than that. It is an indispensable element in all advancement, all development and all progress. The word itself signifies "drawing to a center." It is fixed attention to one subject; the ability to hold the mind steadily in one direction; the "casting down of all imaginations and bringing every thought into captivity" to the dominant idea. It disciplines the mind by the exercise of the will. It promotes self-control which is the first necessity in harmonious living.

What is a Concept?

The evolution of consciousness begins with sensation, or a gradual awareness of surrounding objects. The registration of these sense impressions we call percepts. A sound heard, an object seen, is a percept. When the sound is distinguished from other sounds, or the object differentiated from other objects, the percept becomes a recept. When the accumulation of percepts and recepts grows large enough to demand expression, certain relationships are established between the two, and concepts are formed. A recept is made up of many percepts, an image abstracted from many images. A concept is the registration of that image as an idea in mind.

What is Consciousness?

Direct knowledge of objects, states or sensations, by means of perception, is termed consciousness. Individual consciousness is developed by thought and colored by that which persistently dominates mental activity. As we think, we become; therefore consciousness is the creator of our world, as we are the creators of our consciousness. Grades of consciousness vary, from the lowest and slowest, to the super or cosmic. The race consciousness functions in the material world, where men are still earth and time bound. This consciousness is focused only on material things.

What is Cosmic Consciousness?

As its name suggests, cosmic consciousness is an awareness of the Cosmos, or the life, nature and beauty of the universe. It is a supreme, intuitive knowledge of divine order transcending the mere intellectual faculty of comprehension. It *comes upon* us as we *grow up* into it. It sees both the "without" and the "within." To Paul it was the "Christ Mind." He wrote "If any man is in Christ he is a new creature. Old things are passed away; behold, they are become new."

What is Courage?

We are apt to confuse courage and fearlessness.

Every normal person knows the meaning of fear. Courage is a quality of mind which is not afraid to meet fear. Courage goes confidently forward to face the person, place, condition or situation that appears intimidating. The courageous man is not afraid of fear because he has faith in his ability to meet it victoriously. Courage includes caution, for the brave man does not rush recklessly into danger. True courage includes an intelligent recognition of danger, an earnest and active effort to circumvent it and finally a rallying of forces and a "going forward."

What is Creation?

It is an aggregate of all existing things. To sense perception it indicates solid, inert, unresponsive matter and living organisms of human, animal or plant structure. To the scientific mind it means organized granular formation of etheric substance, throbbing with the vibratory energy of electron and proton, atom and molecule, and radiant with caloric and chemical activity. To spiritual vision it is soul-substance in manifestation; embodiment of living Intelligence; the Word made flesh in a variety of celestial castings.

What is Demonstration?

In demonstrating a problem we work it out ac-

cording to mathematical principles. We *prove it* beyond the shadow of a doubt. Demonstration is the proof of workability and requires strictly deductive reasoning. Spiritual demonstration is manifestation of true reality; perfect expression of the God-idea. It is a working out of spiritual principle as opposed to that which is carnal and material. In working out spiritual problems it is necessary to apply spiritual laws. We may "prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God" for us, by demonstrating it in our lives.

What is Denial?

Denial clears the way for the establishment of truth in the mind. It is a liberation from hampering bonds, an erasure of wrong reasoning. It dredges the mental channels for the inflow of positive ideas. While it is a very necessary factor in dealing with shadowy, false appearances, its excessive use may prove destructive by producing a state of ineffective negativity. Denial not only suggests, but necessitates a corresponding process of reconstruction, or affirmation; it is but a clearing of the ground, a preparation for the building of substantial, positive ideas.

What is Desire?

We are continually confusing our wishes and our

desires. A wish may seem very real, yet it is often merely capricious, lacking the body of substance. Desire is something which beckons us to take possession of our own; its purpose in the divine plan is fixed and definite; it comes from the soul of being and is the inner urge to achievement. It is the very beginning of the creative power of thought—the force back of the thought itself.

What is Dimension?

Dimension is any measurable extent, such as length, breadth or depth, by which the capacity of matter is computed. Metaphysically, dimension is the degree, or relative extent of consciousness, at which we have arrived in our journey between the lowest and highest points of conscious awareness, or between instinct and intuition.

What is the Divine Ideal?

It is the perfect image held always in the thought of God. The spiritual body is the fulfillment of the Divine Ideal—the likeness imaged by immutable Principle. It is the reality which each man's inner being tells him should manifest. In each one of us exists the ideal, immortal self, the divine image of ultimate perfection. To nourish this germ of divinity into growth is the goal toward which we work.

Define Dogma.

Dogma, doctrine and creed are used to signify certain fixed or set religious beliefs. The creed is a formal summary of what has been established by others as a more or less obligatory way of interpreting religion. Doctrine, primarily, means something that is taught. Used in connection with the Church it signifies what is taught as the creed. Dogma is the arrogant assertion of doctrine. It assumes and asserts authority to decree what others shall think and believe, regardless of what their own reasoning powers tell them is the truth.

What is Duality?

Duality sees two powers: good and evil. It has two interests: matter and spirit. The double mind is unstable and unreliable. "No man can serve two masters." He cannot keep faith with both "God and mammon." If the eye is "single" to the good, if the vision remains steadfast, we become one with it. We see it everywhere, believe in it and continually dwell in its presence, where we find peace of mind and poise of spirit.

What is the Ego?

The ego is the whole man—the real or inmost self of him. We find it in the *Vedanta*, designated as the *Atman*. It is the *I Am* of our Scripture, the

Christ, as expressed through Jesus, the son or perfect man-idea of God. Each individual is originally an expression of the Creator's ideal and, in the true and perfect state, the ego should function on all three planes of being, the physical, mental and spiritual. Material success often exaggerates the ego of the weak man, exalting the little "I" to the point of setting aside the real "I AM," which is the positive pole of being from which all mastery and dominion are manifested. It is the focal point around which all that is worthwhile develops and progresses.

What is Energy?

All life is a matter of vibration registering in the universe as some form of energy; therefore energy is activity of power, or force in operation. We measure it by its capacity for performing work. The least movement in the ether causes vibration and radiation, and a consequent exchange of energy between matter and ether. Thought is creative energy; it vibrates at an astonishingly high rate and shapes spiritual ether into resultant form.

What is Error?

Error is wrong thinking, or thinking outside spiritual principles. It is due to ignorance concerning

God, man and the universe. It subjects man to the penalties of imperfect manifestation in his affairs, which we call evil. The only solvent for evil is truth. Error is failure to apply the principle, either through ignorance or willfulness. Its remedy is re-education, and this is accomplished through a desire to learn or by means of disciplinary effects brought about by that which we call evil.

*What is the difference between
Esoteric and Exoteric?*

Esoteric and exoteric are defined as direct opposites. The first is exclusive, the second, inclusive. We speak of an esoteric interpretation as one adapted only to the understanding of the enlightened minority. Its opposite is that which is understood by the great majority, or the uninitiated. One is the inner or hidden meaning, the other, that which is plainly evident to all. Jesus taught in parables because he recognized the value of esoteric instruction. He knew that spiritual truths must be spiritually discerned; that to some it was "given to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven" which others might scoff at. "Give not that which is holy to the dogs, neither cast your pearls before swine, lest haply they trample them under their feet," was his injunction, meaning,

of course, that truth is too precious to be trampled upon by those who, living on the animal plane, are not yet ready to comprehend it.

What is Faith?

Faith is a positive belief in what we judge to be true. It is a kind of knowledge based upon trust. It is expectant and prophetic; adventurous, courageous and creative. It is both a discoverer and a builder. It aspires and inspires. It is half vision and half power to express that vision. To really believe is to have, for faith is the *assurance* of things hoped for, and the conviction that unseen things must become tangible. It gives us the ability to advance fearlessly into the possibilities of the realm of Spirit and to *believe* them into visibility.

What is Fear?

Fear is an emotion excited by threatening evil, with a desire to escape from or avoid it. It is really a parasite, living on the other emotions and absorbing their life substance. It causes more havoc in the human system than any other emotion or condition, yet it is irrational and absurd; absolutely without foundation, yet it produces utter chaos; a poor negative, but the instigator of countless positives. It is each man's enemy which he is

called upon to face, single-handed; something he must master or it will master him. It has a paralyzing effect on every part of his organism. Its devastation extends outward into his affairs. It expresses itself as inharmony in his home and failure in his business. It etches chaotic designs on even the fairest countenance. It feeds upon the mental forces which mold the body. It weakens the will, contaminates the imagination and impoverishes the intelligence. Its final creations are often insanity, disease and death.

What is Freedom?

Man is bound by ignorance and becomes free through his knowledge of truth. Freedom is a true interpretation of spiritual Reality. As man discerns his own individuality in the cosmic scheme, he is released from the bondage of his false thinking. "Ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall set you free," the Master taught. Truth is spiritual Principle—the divine emancipator. It liberates man, to the extent that he allows it, from illusions of sense and their hampering results.

What is God?

God is spirit. Not *a* spirit, but spirit, as opposed to matter—the quality of life devoid of physical

manifestation. It is something we can neither see nor define. We only know *that* it is. It is not impossible to believe in something we cannot describe or analyze. We do not know what electricity is, but we believe in and use it because we know what it can do. That is just how we know God. The universe is composed of the substance of Spirit; it is ruled by the Intelligence of Law and Order. God is this ruling Intelligence. He is the Truth which is real; the Principle which is dependable; the Love which is immutable; the Good which is immeasurable; the Life which is eternal. He is the one Presence and Power of the universe; unknowable, yet ever present; incomprehensible, yet constantly communing with us; as far as the east is from the west, yet closer than hands and feet. God may mean just as much to you as you desire. You may contact Him as Love, Joy or Truth; as Life, Mind or Principle; as Intelligence, Energy or Power; as one or as all of these attributes. He is all-inclusive, and He may mean to you whatever you wish.

What is Happiness?

Happiness is a state of permanent, unlimited harmony—a quality of inner peace which nothing can disturb. It is a consciousness of the good-will of the universe towards mankind, a realization

that a joyous ending is always possible, no matter how inconceivable it may seem. It is a faith in goodness and right, a belief in divine order and a positive conviction of immeasurable, inexhaustible, omnipresent Love. It does far more than dispel gloom and counteract despondency, as it has a definite effect upon the mind and body. It is a divine elixir that transmutes the base metal of everyday living into the golden glory of the Kingdom of Heaven. It quickens the spirit, heals the body and prospers the affairs.

What is Harmony?

Harmony is complete agreement. We realize it only when every element of discord or disagreement has been eliminated from our consciousness. The secret of all progress is in getting into the right relationship with the universal. Getting in tune with infinite order—that is harmony—accepting the underlying law of creation and moving in its mighty rhythm. To establish such a relationship with that order, is to contact the Intelligence which enriches our lives and adjusts our affairs.

What is Healing?

To heal is to make whole. The idea of wholeness suggests the restoration to an original comple-

tion or perfection. We speak of being restored to health, as though it were the natural state of being. Healing is absolutely normal and should not require strained effort. The whole idea of healing, rightly understood, is the forgiveness of sin, which is but another way of saying the correction of sense-testimony. Sin is thinking outside of Truth and results in discord. As man corrects his mistakes he substitutes Truth for his belief in evil. This correction results in a state of physical well-being and restores him to his real condition of wholeness. "Which is easier to say: 'Thy sins be forgiven thee, or arise and walk?'"

What is Health?

Health is an expression of divine Intelligence, a radiation of infinite Energy, a liberation of God-activity. It is the result of harmony—that finely adjusted balance between matter and spirit, between mind and body. When the mind is disordered the equilibrium of the body is disturbed. A peaceful, well-ordered mind expresses itself through the physical organism. Health is a normal result of orderly thinking and intelligent living.

What is an Idea?

An idea is an image in mind—the archetype of

the thing we see with the eye of sense. It is a norm, a living, immortal entity—the perfect thought of the Creator. Idea by idea, consciousness must be built, changed or regenerated. The idea of anything is the thing itself, containing the substance and life which bodies forth in form. Ideas, in themselves, contain energy and are distinct forces. They, and they only, constitute the key which will unlock the door of finite sense and release the powerful truth of infinite and eternal things.

What is an Ideal?

In each person there exists an ideal being—an image of Divinity. This lofty place of inspiration is the Christ spirit, wherein is held the celestial germ, the sacred pattern of each individual life. It is an eternal urge, a growing force, ever pushing from within—a divine dissatisfaction, ever compelling greater and stronger effort. According to Goethe, the ideal is a completion of the real. Jesus was the great idealist. He “joined the ideal on to reality,” so perfectly that he expressed it in every act of his life.

What is Individuality?

Your individuality is what you are to yourself. It characterizes you as a separate, distinct entity.

It distinguishes you as *one* apart from others. It is the indivisible part of you, the particular, distinctive spirit that expresses your real self.

What is Intellect?

The intellect is that part of the mentality concerned with the acquisition and retention of knowledge, as distinguished from the emotions and the will. The intellect alone is dry, hard and cold. It requires the warmth of emotional fire to achieve greatly. The man who couples thought with feeling, intellect with emotion, becomes a dominant force, drawing enormous draughts of power from the infinite Intelligence. A trained mind plus the divine fire of enthusiasm, leads unerringly to that hidden source of power, the God within.

What is Karma?

Strictly speaking, karma is defined as inevitable retribution. It is looked upon as a law of nature, of universal validity, called by scientists the law of causation or the law of action and re-action. From this standpoint it brings back to every person, unerringly, at some future time, the results and consequences of all his thoughts, feelings and actions. Karma takes on a new light in Truth, and we are freed, rather than limited, by a scien-

tific understanding of it. When we know that life is an effect, of which mind is the cause, we may set in operation the causes of health, harmony and power, confident that they will register as effects in our lives, and that we shall reap in the outer what we have sown in the inner world of thought.

What is the Kingdom?

The Kingdom is both universal Reality and individual awareness. As Reality, it is the "fullness that filleth all in all." Imperfection in the Kingdom is impossible, because it is the point of absolute Truth. The divine design exists there—the *real* of everything. It is the heavenly pattern which is God's idea of creation. It cannot be measured or located in human terms. It is a condition of spirit and must be spiritually discerned. Subjectively, it is that part of the infinite Mind that man has perceived and made a part of his consciousness. It is his inner realization of the divine pattern to which he may conform. "Lo, the Kingdom of Heaven is within you," was the Master's teaching.

What is Knowledge?

Knowledge is a sum-total of facts the mind has perceived and believed. It is the controlling

agency which regulates and directs the application of the hidden power of thought. Its value is tested by its efficacy of production. It reveals itself as enslaving or liberating in so far as its directed energy binds or sets free, destroys or creates. Knowledge implants within man's mind the living germ of an image; strong, vigorous thoughts hasten its growth and production. Christianity is the spiritual education which directs knowledge in its selection of images, testing them in the light of Truth.

What is Law?

A law is the way in which a principle is interpreted and applied. A law changes, but a principle does not. As we grow to a greater understanding of principles, we change our way of using them, thus altering the laws we have laid down for their demonstration. Connected with every principle are certain laws governing the operation of its application. Our failure to obey these laws does not affect the principle, it merely prevents our demonstration of it.

What is Light?

Light was the first great revelation of divine creative energy that called all living things into being. Each brilliant point of light in the black dome

of the heavens, science tells us, is a nucleus of life-giving energy—a focus of activity whose radiations are electrical force. These radiations are continually pouring into space, for the purpose of creating new life-energy. There is a marvelous healing power in physical light, but how much greater is the spiritual symbol than its material representation! The Master recognized the Christ-spirit, in both himself and others, as light which should pierce the darkness of ignorance and error, and shine, as active spirit-force, “unto the perfect day.”

What is Lack?

We use lack and want interchangeably. Both are close attendants of poverty. All three are negative conditions, evidences of wrong thinking. A lack is something that *is not*. It is the exact working out of mental error, the creation of negative, untrue thought. Lack is nothingness—a shadow without substance, failure to perceive what *really is*.

What is meant by Logos?

“In the beginning was the Word,” or expression of Divine Thought—the Logos. It is an emanation of Divine Intellect to the receptive mind, and may be called the fountain-head of mental

illumination. By it the world was created. It is Spirit; it is Power. Justin Martyr (A. D. 139) speaks of it as the universal Source of light and reason. "The Word was with God, and the Word *was* God."

What is Love?

Love is the action or expression of life. It is something eternal, infinite, boundless. The perfect flowering of this universal essence is spiritual love in the soul of humanity. When you give out love you send forth the divine essence; you express God. Love is the universal solvent of strife and inharmony. It conquers every condition, however desperate it may seem. It is a constructive force, and wherever it is applied it builds up, renews and creates. It must go into your occupation, or profession; it must inspire your service, promote your friendships and accompany your charities. "Love never fails."

What is Man?

Generically speaking, the word man is used to denote and include the human race. It is agreed by scientists that man is the present climax of natural evolution—the sum-total of race development up to now. From a spiritual standpoint he is the expression of divine Principle, the embodi-

ment of God's ideal. He is a steward of immutable power—a channel through which it flows into manifestation. He is the custodian of evolutionary progress and to him is given the privilege of speeding it onward to a realization of the divine image and likeness.

What is Manifestation?

To manifest is to show forth or make evident. The principle of manifestation is a scientific law governed by cause and effect. Active, living thought energy lies back of all material objectification. Mind is the reality, or cause, and body is the appearance or effect. Our bodies are subject to this law and our lives are conditioned by it. We manifest realities in direct ratio to our ideals. That which we hold in mind is bound to be loosed in thought-activity and thus objectify itself in form. We have within ourselves the power to manifest perfect conditions in our bodies and affairs, to form and transform them, according to the living image we hold in mind.

What is Materialism?

Materialism is the doctrine of matter, or the theory that pertains to physical existence, as opposed to spiritual. The concept of matter has long been a stumbling-block in man's spiritual

pathway. Professor Millikan when asked to define matter once said that, owing to the rapid growth of scientific discovery, it is quite as difficult to find a satisfactory definition of matter as it is to tell what spirit is. Physical science is ever advancing closer to that of the spirit. The old idea of a fixed, static universe—solid, dense and compact—is gone. We know that nothing is static. Dynamic, fluid energy is present everywhere. Materialism is non-existent to spiritual vision, for matter, to it, is soul-substance in manifestation.

What is Meditation?

The ordinary definition of the word is contemplation, or continuous thought. We read a deeper significance into the spiritual interpretation. It means entering into the innermost center of being and fixing the concentrated thought there. It means shutting the door of the mind against all distractions, all noisy turmoil of race thought, all delusions of mortal belief, all clamorous demands of sense. It means recognizing wondrous things within, where hidden treasures of the Kingdom are safely stored away. Within is the Presence, the place of adjustment, the mountain of illumination where we may talk with God. Just as the test of human friendship lies more in its silences than in its speech, so we rest silently in

the security of the Father's understanding love and care. It brings peace of mind and poise of spirit, for in "quietness and confidence" we find our strength.

What is Metaphysics?

Metaphysics is more than a science of being, or a speculative philosophy. William James considered it the forum where all sciences meet for discussion. "It means," he wrote, "only an unusually obstinate attempt to think clearly and consistently." The scientists of today must agree with the metaphysician, that God is creative Intelligence or Mind, present everywhere in the universe, and manifesting through every created thing. It is the true explanation of life, based, not only on belief, opinion or inspiration, but on a real science that explains many hitherto hidden mysteries, the science of Metaphysics.

What is Mind?

Mind is actually a substantial form of energy. It is regarded as potential energy, while thought is the dynamic force which produces the activity for manifestation. Together they form the moving principle of the universe—the motor-power which turns its wheels and furnishes its active operation. Your mind is your world. Your own world. You

are its chief executive, responsible for its harmony or its strife. In reality there is but one Mind, and it is perfect. It is the Truth and it will enter and possess your individual mind as you let it flow through and enrich you.

What is the difference between the Conscious, Subconscious and Superconscious Minds?

The psychologist separates consciousness into three divisions. He knows that man responds to things which are less than himself; he reacts to that which is equal to himself; and he responds to that which is beyond himself. The mind of man has been likened to a long pole, extended indefinitely at either end, with an illuminated disc in the center. The disc is the human consciousness, the upper end of the pole is the superconscious, the lower being the subconscious. Through the subconscious we are open to material or race beliefs. At the upper end through the superconscious we contact the All-Knowing Mind in which we are complete. It is the dwelling place of the spiritual man, the Infinite Consciousness in which we may live and move and have our being. It is the high tower in which we may find refuge from limitations of human consciousness.

What is Mysticism?

Mysticism is not a word we need to avoid or regard with fear, suspicion or awe. It may be defined as a state of consciousness in its highest vision of the oneness of life. To be sure, it is obscure to material observation, as it deals with "things that are unseen" by physical organs of sight. To the mystic is given "treasures of the unseen, and hidden riches of secret places;" to him it is given to "know the mysteries of the Kingdom of Heaven."

What is Nature?

The thought or intelligence that is being worked out in a uniform order of procedure is what we call the law of nature. "The heavens declare it, and the firmament showeth it forth; day unto day uttereth it and night unto night discloseth it; there is no speech nor language where its voice is not heard." Nature does not hurry. Its divine order is leisurely and its every operation is a miracle. Thinking men and women who have contacted its manifestations have found in them keys to the realms of both science and spirit. Modern scientists have interpreted it as a manifestation and revelation of intelligent power.

What is the meaning of Negative?

Negative thought is untrue thought—lacking in

reality; it doubts, hesitates and wavers. The negative person lacks authority. Even though he may have more ability than the positive person, he is not sure of himself, therefore he cannot convince others of his worth. An accumulation of negative beliefs can seriously hamper and misdirect the universal creative energy. All negative thought is destructive, as it attracts like qualities that exist in the surrounding mental atmosphere—worries and cares of others, their doubts, fears and discouragements. Every person has the ability to banish his negative beliefs by substituting strong, positive ones in their place.

What is Nonresistance?

Resistance is active opposition. It is both exhausting and futile to employ it against an adverse condition. Whatever your enemy may be, fighting only increases its power over you, by making a reality of it. The language of resistance is pain. Nonresistance finds the harmony of the universe and swings into its motion, going with the stream of power which nourishes and protects. Our enemies are more often mental than human—beliefs in physical, mental and financial imperfection. Against these our human resistance seems fragile and weak. Turn away from fighting conditions. Resist them not. Resistance is born of fear and

ignorance; nonresistance is born of love. Do not render evil for evil, but overcome evil with good, is the true interpretation of the Christ spirit.

What is Omnipotence?

The true meaning of the word is "all-powerful." We use it as a name for God, the one Power in the universe. A power that is creative and orderly, the Source of all and the directing Principle that holds its creations in cosmic perfection. Man may draw upon this Power in direct ratio to his belief in it. We think of Omnipotence as limiting us, but it is we who limit it. There is an equal distribution of power throughout the universe and we may have whatever our consciousness appropriates.

What is Omnipresence?

Like Omnipotence, Omnipresence is used as a name for God. It means all, or everywhere present. God is all, everywhere, all-inclusive. In Him we live and move and have our being. The great Presence abides eternally, filling the universe with intelligence and love. No one can ever be alone who has once realized this, nor can he believe in anything less than all-good. "There is one God, the Father of all, who is above all, through all and in us all."

What is Peace?

Peace is a quality of mind—a quietness of spirit that is free from all fear. It is a consciousness of inner harmony so deep that nothing can disturb its calm tranquillity. It is a realization of oneness with Omnipotent Omnipresence. There is nothing passive or negative about its sense of stillness; it is, rather, a state of conscious power which all may possess. "My peace I give unto you," was the Master's bequest to his disciples. His peace—beyond all human interference or disturbance. His peace that is the calm soul of all things.

What is Personality?

Your personality is what you are to others—the way you impress those you meet. It is what distinguishes and makes you appear different from others. It is the expression of your individuality—an elusive and mysterious something which registers on those you contact, although they may not understand why they are impressed—attracted or repelled, as the case may be. It has been analyzed as something that may be strengthened and developed by understanding, persistent effort.

What is a Plane?

As we consider life from the standpoint of mind we recognize certain levels or stages of thought

which we term planes of consciousness. Man advances from one plane to another as his awareness grows and his mind expands, from primitive animal nature up to cosmic or divine illumination. We call the relative extent or degree of consciousness at which we have arrived, dimension. Planes of consciousness are infinite.

What is Poise?

Poise is a state of balance maintained between activity and rest. It is motion so perfectly adjusted as to appear absolutely still. Just as a spinning top seems motionless in its whirling energy, so the mind may function swiftly, yet keep its perfect equilibrium. Its activity may be so truly adjusted that it will give the appearance of suspended motion. Poise is the throttle-valve that controls our motive power; it tends to balance the outflow and the inflow and prevent waste caused by excessive emotion. When we have found peace and the inner source of power, and realized both in perfect combination, we have touched the secret of poise.

What is the meaning of Positive?

Positive thinking is direct and affirmative, something real and actual. It is sure of itself and moves straight toward its objective. It inspires confidence

in others through its absolute assurance of what is right. The positive, dynamic personality has the ability to attract and lead; to surmount obstacles and overcome difficulties; to draw into his surroundings like positive elements of success. A positive invariably overcomes a negative; as the positive principle of light is set in operation, darkness automatically disappears. One of the most outstanding points of Christianity is its positiveness. Its founder had and continually used that majestic conviction which is the very soul of leadership.

What is Power?

Power is active energy, or potential capacity for work. Man is industriously seeking it in nature's forces. Winds, tides, volcanic fires, waterfalls, rays of light—all of these he endeavors to convert into degrees of power. It is inconceivable that he has neglected the vast source of surplus energy within himself. Mind is substantial energy; thought is dynamic force. Man's consciousness is the channel through which omnipotent Power flows. He may draw upon, absorb and transmute the infinite energy into degrees of power as great as he chooses to use. He may discover and tap inner capacities that will develop into vast sources of surplus power to be stored away in his spiritual reservoir, ready for use in time of need.

What is Praise?

Praise is expressed commendation or appreciation. The principle of expression underlies every condition of life. It is this: what you give comes back to you, according to an established law of action and reaction. In our human experiences we have learned that the praise of the appreciative person calls forth increased inspiration and effort on our part. How much greater must the reaction be when we send forth our thankful praise to the Giver of all good. It is a liberation of force which cannot fail to reach that to which it is addressed, and to rebound in an instantaneous return of what we have set in motion.

What is Prayer?

The intelligent prayer is a practical, scientific, usable principle, as distinguished from the old thought of beseeching and imploring a stern and unrelenting Deity to give us the things we think we want. Prayer is conscious knowledge and application of a principle whose demonstration never fails. It is our cooperation with infinite Good, through our recognition of the orderly, harmonious process of Spirit. A prayer of supplication cannot change a perfect plan, but prayer changes the consciousness of the one who prays.

It is the process by which he purifies his heart and his mind for the inflow of divine Substance.

What is Principle?

A principle is a truth that is unchangeable; the source or cause from which a thing results; its origin, or the essence which makes it what it is. When a principle is understood and applied it demonstrates its own truth. In applying a principle you relate it to your problem, to test, or bring it into effect. You use it as a means of discovering the correct result by absolutely proving its effectiveness.

What is Prosperity?

We are very apt to think prosperity is represented by material possessions. In its true sense it is the acquisition of those things which are helpful and which bring us happiness. Real prosperity is in the realm of ideas. From these we receive power to mold ever-present substance into that which will make us happy. It is wiser not to limit our conception of prosperity, but to have a large idea of it—to choose the reality rather than the symbol.

What is Reality?

Reality deals with the truly existing things, which are ideas, and it must be discerned with the inner

or spiritual eye. The reality of man is the sum total of God's ideas about him. The real, or Christ man is what we are striving to see, both in ourselves and in others. The self we behold with our physical senses is not the real being, but what each person thinks about himself. Reality is unchanging and everlasting. To the Master, the Kingdom was the only reality. In it we find the cause back of all perfect phenomena—the wholeness of body and affairs.

What is Relaxation?

Relaxation is a release from strain, a loosening of tension. It opens the door to an inner renewal; it "restoreth the soul." The principle of undulation is one of the fundamental laws of the body. When wave activity becomes that of flood or deluge, it results in destruction. Used intelligently, relaxation is a power-renewer of body, mind and spirit. To be able to shift the burden of care and anxiety, or to release the tension of energy spent in routine duty, even for a brief period of rest, produces a sense of liberation and is the secret of tremendous power.

What is Religion?

Religion is so closely associated with the Church that they are constantly confused. Christianity is

another word that is often used as a synonym for religion. The word, itself, signifies both an inner and an outer acknowledgement of a Supreme Being. Since the first dawn of intelligence in man, religion has existed. It is as old as the race and as varied as mankind. It cannot be confined in churches or monopolized by sects. It is the everlasting search of the human spirit for the divine. It is the life of God in the soul of man and "What doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, to love mercy and to walk humbly with thy God?"

What is Repression?

To express is to press out, to repress is to press back. Expression is living yourself outward in action, or freeing the inner, active, creative spirit. Expressed activity becomes radiant energy, coursing through the mind as ideas, through the body as health, through the emotions as love, through the affairs as abundance. Failure to utilize the entire amount of energy results in repression somewhere. Dullness, ill-health, inharmony, poverty—all are repressed life. Life's eternal energy must not be repressed or it will stagnate and become inexpressibly dull and inert, therefore useless and uninteresting.

What is Resurrection?

Resurrection means rising again, therefore a restoring or renewal. The resurrection of Jesus is the cardinal doctrine of Christianity. The demonstration of all his teaching and works culminated in his ability to conquer death, by rising out of it. Christianity reveals to us the resurrected or spiritual body which, when it appears, opens our inner eyes to the "Lord's body," and the inevitability of its purpose in the evolution of the race. Christianity shows us that life is unfoldment and must, necessarily, culminate in victory over its last enemy, death. It teaches us that the Kingdom of Heaven is not reached through the gateway of death, but over the top of the wall of limited, mortal beliefs, and that the spirit realm is not a different place, but a different condition.

What is Revelation?

Revelation is derived from a Latin word meaning "to draw back the veil." It is the purpose of Christianity to reveal the hidden mysteries and glories of the "Kingdom." "There is nothing hidden that shall not be revealed," the avenues of revelation are not closed now and never will be, because mind is the connecting link between God and man and God-mind is constantly trying to reveal through every man, its perfect ideal.

What is Science?

Science is knowledge reduced to law and embodied in system. Science discovers, genius invents and industry applies nature's mighty forces for the benefit of mankind in its triumphant march of progress. Science patiently delves in the earth, reaches up to the skies, reduces water and air to their atomic elements and takes substance from the infinite ether. Science thus furnishes a sublime conception of God, and one wholly consistent with the highest ideal of religion. It represents God as revealing Himself in the development of the earth and the evolution of man. Science worships at the altar of Truth and realizes there can be no vital conflict or contradiction between scientific and religious revelation.

What is Silence?

We speak of the Silence as a form of prayer. "God is spirit, and must be spiritually discerned." We must enter the inner chamber of the mind and, having closed the door upon all turmoil and confusion, commune with our spiritual consciousness of God. The first step is to "be still, and know." The next is to "close the door", or relax the tension of outside disturbance. "Pray, then, to the Father", or concentrate upon the good, and listen for the "still, small voice" within. It is well to re-

member that you will neither see visions nor hear voices with your eyes and ears of sense. The Silence is a communion of Spirit, an illumination of mind; it is your awareness of unity with divine Goodness, your perfect understanding of the Master's words: "The Father and I are one."

What is Sin?

Sin is failure to see and apply spiritual principles. It is the result of thinking outside of spiritual Reality, thereby failing to measure up to Truth. It is much deeper than a mere violation of the moral code laid down and recognized by humanity. "The way of the transgressor is hard," because sin is in direct opposition to divine order, or that which is eternally true, therefore its manifestations are disastrous. God does not punish sin, as we were taught in the old thought; He does not need to. Sin punishes itself; its consequences are a part of it. As we correct our mistakes, we forgive our own sins, by destroying our belief in evil and substituting for it our knowledge of Truth.

What is Spirit?

Spirit is defined as the principle of life and vital energy—the part of man that has intelligence. It is far more than that. It is the creative Principle of Absolute Intelligence. In man it is the divine

Breath of God—that which quickens him and makes of him a “living soul.” It is a principle of active law and order, progressing and evolving, and eager to work through human intelligence as rapidly as man is able to receive it. The Universal Spirit or Mind of God is the infinite Source, and it has re-produced itself in man, unfolding through the perception of his individual mind or spirit. God is Spirit; man is *a* spirit, or part of universal Spirit. No limit can be placed upon man’s spirit, as it is the same in essence, as the universal, differing only in degree.

What is Spirituality?

Spirituality is a basic faculty of the mind. It relates man’s consciousness directly to the Father-mind. It is quickened by prayer and meditation; they are really the language of spirituality. As man develops his spiritual nature he draws true ideas from the universal Mind, thus accumulating the life, intelligence and substance necessary to his highest expression. Spirituality consists in remembering Truth, as man’s education is the conscious realization of things he has always known in the spiritual realm.

What is Substance?

Substance is the invisible abundance of spirit

which underlies all material manifestation; hence it is the origin or *reality* of the thing itself. It is the divine essence out of which the creative energy forms its images. There could be no physical or material manifestation without this substance. Although our physical sight is not keen enough to behold the invisible essence, we shape and produce tangible things from the inexhaustible mind-substance, by directing our thought. We put substance into our bodies and our conditions, as we perceive the divine ideas underlying all life.

What is Supernatural?

We are too apt to confuse the supernatural with the magical, or to associate it with mysterious unreality, whereas supernatural means simply over, beyond or above the natural. If we think of natural as meaning in accordance with the common experience or order of nature, the supernatural becomes, not a violation of nature's laws, but a transcendence of them. We recognize two forces in the universe: the physical or material, usually ascribed to nature, and the spiritual, applied to the minds of men. The spiritual is not magical, but supernatural, greater than the material, beyond and above the natural.

What is Supply?

Political economy defines supply as the amount of a commodity available for meeting a demand. We have seen that inexhaustible substance lies back of all manifestation. It is the divine Supply—"all that the Father hath." It is equal to any claim made upon it, but there must be a claim. Supply always has been. Supply is now. Supply always will be. It is the all-providing Power available for every need, as the demand is made. "Ask, and ye shall receive." The gift of God to man is riches and wealth and the power to take his portion." Abundant supply is provided for all; each has the power to demand his share. Each is supplied as he believes in and asks for his high heritage.

What is a Symbol?

A symbol is a representation of something. The Bible story of creation, when it is read with spiritual understanding, is a description, in symbol, of how "worlds were framed by the word of God." The entire Bible is regarded by the majority of Hebrew scholars as an allegorical narration of spiritual advancement. The greatest teacher of all time presented his lessons in parable form. To Jesus every thing in the natural world was a symbol of some spiritual truth and he drew his delineations with artistic skill and a clear perception

of how the cosmic Purpose should figure in the education of man.

What is Thanksgiving?

Thanksgiving is one of a trinity. It is closely connected with and dependent upon two other qualities of spirit: appreciation and gratitude. Appreciation is the positive motive power behind gratitude, and the stored up activity of gratitude is expressed in thanksgiving. Force, thus sent forth must, according to principle, react in the ratio of its motive power. Appreciate your blessings, which are many. Be grateful for each one. By prayer and thanksgiving let your requests be made known. The prayer of thanksgiving is the prayer of appropriation. It attracts and magnifies the hidden potentialities of life. It was the magic Jesus used in the land of the miraculous. "Father I thank Thee," was his habitual prayer.

What is Theology?

Theology is what men have thought about religion and summarized in creed and doctrine as authorized prescriptions for others to study and believe. It deals with doctrine, not life; with dogmatic conclusion, not soul experience; with established rule, rather than with spiritual illumination; with man-made opinion and syllogism that

have no connection with religion in its true sense. It is more concerned with how Jesus was born than the truths he taught; more with forms of worship than with the spirit that inspires it; more with tenet and precept than with life.

What is Theosophy?

Theosophy is really a mystical philosophy of the universe. But in its modern sense it has come to mean a form of religious teaching. It sets forth two fundamental doctrines: the Immanence of God and the Solidarity of life. It presents itself as a basis of religion and morality and as a philosophy of life. It teaches laws of reincarnation, causation and karma. It has much to contribute to each of these departments—principles of conduct capable of application to human living. It holds up lofty ideals which appeal to human thought and feeling.

What are Things?

Think and thing are derived from the same root-word, and the ancient Sanskrit meaning of our word real is "from-thought-to-thing." Things are thoughts made real. Whatever is manifested to consciousness as existing in the universe, was first an object of thought. Ideas project themselves in the forms they have been given in the minds of

their originators. The manifestations are dim or vivid according to the intensity of the thought which sent them forth. Things are the objectification of the thoughts of men.

What is Thought?

Thought is active force—a form of radiant energy. It is electrical power, radiated from the mind and distributed throughout the body as active energy. It is the potential substance of all material things, as well as the background of all that is spiritual. It is not one of a group of faculties, but that which stands back of every mental activity. It is creative or destructive according to the manner in which it is directed. Unbridled thought creates havoc in the cellular construction of the body. We must learn to think in a way that will release our hidden powers and our possibilities of turning thoughts into things.

What is Truth?

When we come to know what God is we shall understand the meaning of Truth, for God is Truth. Truth is the inherent nature of things—the vision we perceive through soul-insight. It is the ultimate, illimitable, infinite power pervading all existence. It is the hidden harmony of all things; the single thread of meaning which runs through and

connects all things; the unchangeable principle which controls all things. It can never be altered to fit the opinions, beliefs or desires of men. Jesus left Pilate's immortal question unanswered, but he knew the answer. He summed up all questions of all peoples at all times in his declaration to the Father: "Thy Word is Truth."

What is Unity?

Unity signifies a union of parts, a result of many, drawn together into one perfect harmonious whole—a one-ness so complete that all possibility of separateness is lost sight of. The entire universe is a declaration of order, harmony and unity. True religion should be a unifier of the race, as unity of spirit is the foundation upon which all companionship, all friendship and all brotherhood of man must forever rest. There is but one Life, of which you are a part. There is but one Love; it is yours to express. There is but one Intelligence; you may broadcast it from your individual station. There is but one Substance; you may bring it into manifestation through your Christ-recognition of its omnipresence. The unity principle is the same today as it was two thousand years ago when Jesus taught it to an unheeding world: "That they may all be one, even as Thou,

Father, art in me and I in Thee, and they also in us."

What is meant by Universal?

Universal relates to the universe or whole; it is unlimited, all-embracing, entire, therefore it is sometimes used as a synonym for God. It is the vision we must have of life, seeing it with larger, more comprehensive vistas. Rising above petty disagreement and separateness, we must extend our perspective to include infinite spaciousness. This vision of the universal, or whole, dwarfs all selfconscious conceptions and imaginations, and perceives that God and the entire creation are so indissolubly one that no separation is possible. God is the inclusive consciousness that sustains all. This consciousness was so quickened in Jesus that he merged his personality into the universal. "He that hath seen me hath seen the Father."

What is Vision?

Vision is usually defined as the faculty of seeing. In its spiritual sense it has a magic which insures success. It was not the physical sense of sight Jesus meant when he spoke of "eyes that see not." Many perfect organs of sight are spiritually blind. The vision of the Master beheld reality back of appearance; it pierced into the very heart of Truth.

"Where the vision is set, there you reach," is the inspiration of all achievement. All education should be a series of opening the eyes to the spiritual principle of man and the universe, and thus identifying the self with that Mind in which the idea and substance of all things is to be found.

What is Wealth?

Wealth is a positive conviction of well-being resulting from a clear understanding of spiritual substance. It has nothing to do with material possessions, but consists of "treasures in Heaven, laid up" where they cannot be destroyed. According to the riches we have in mind, we are supplied. Wealth is a creation of what the human senses have gleaned, through the mind, from the substance of spirit.

What is Will?

The will has been described in many figures of speech. It has been called the rudder of the soul, the motor of the mind, the executor of the intellect. Best of all is the old saying: "The will is the man." The will puts an idea into effect; it produces action and is the doer that does the work of the thinker. Its chief purpose is to keep the imagination focused in the right direction. In order to do this it must be balanced with under-

standing. In reality there is but one Mind, one Principle, one Will. Man is free to use these—to harmonize himself with their perfection. For this reason he prays: "Not my will, but Thine be done."

What is Wisdom?

Wisdom, understanding and intuition are closely connected in our minds. All are defined as discernment, with relative degrees of distinction: just and true, relating to wisdom; mental, to understanding, and direct, to intuition. The sum total of all experiences, discerned with intelligence, becomes wisdom. As the organ of intelligence, mind then functions intuitively, or with direct discernment. Intuition is the third or spiritual eye with which wisdom beholds, not finite form, but infinite reality.

What is Work?

Work is the general term for effort consciously directed to an end. It is universally recognized as a law of life, because the necessity for human development and progress is through self-activity. The true interpretation of work is self-exercise, self-expression. Man's work is an extension of himself—a revelation of his inner life, both to others and to himself. No work is degrading, it is only

our false conception of it that humiliates us. It is not what we do but how we do it that will advance us from something we *have* to do, to that which we *want* to do. As you give and express your contribution to humanity, no matter how humble it may be, you must, eventually, find that place "prepared for you from the foundation of the world." That person is happiest who likes to see his work well done for its own sake.

What is the meaning of Works?

There is a much deeper significance in the word "works" than that contained in the ordinary meaning of work, as occupation. It is a metaphysical expression for accomplishment, for manifestation, for demonstration of principle. It is the tangible half of vision, completing the meaning of faith. It is a proof of the quality of vision, an embodiment of belief. It is that by which we are either justified or condemned by others.

What is Worry?

Worry is, in a way, closely allied to fear, in that it is a result of apprehension and anxiety. Whereas anxiety may be silent and concealed, worry communicates itself to all around it. It is petty, restless and plainly apparent. The person who worries is out of tune with the universe; he not only

wastes his own mental energy but he is a menace to others. Any normal person can change his thought if he really tries. Naturally it requires effort and we are often too inert to actively attack our mental enemies. If we deliberately or unconsciously waste our forces on trifling and often imaginary difficulties, we must take the consequence. But if we would be free from fear and all its satellites, we must cultivate an abiding faith that nothing can disturb. We must "let not our hearts be troubled," because we believe in an omnipresent Power—that is all good, for all, at all times, and that all things continually work together to produce this good in our lives.

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Publishers' Notes

The definitions of the metaphysical terms in "The Path to Wisdom" are those of a great leader and a great teacher. Richard Lynch addresses large audiences of students of metaphysics in New York two or three times a week. Out of his own inspired consciousness of the truth that sets free, in his lectures and his writings Dr. Lynch is aiding thousands to attain that knowledge which is power. Programs of his public addresses, registered and private classes, and catalogues of his books, will be sent on request.

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THE UNITY PRESS

33 West 39th Street

New York, N. Y.