

PHASE SEVEN

May, 1971

THE VALLEY OF THE SHADOW

The only road to life passes through
the Valley of the Shadow of Death.

Process Precept

1 DESPITE THE MISLEADING DECORATIONS WE LIVE IN A BLACK MUSEUM

1.1 Death, Doom, Destruction and Damnation are no myths.
They are real.

1.2 Despite the apparent innocuousness of the lives of most human beings; despite the comforts of home and family, despite supermarkets, polite conversation, days by the seaside, laughing, dancing, and making love; despite good morning smiles, fireside chats, Christmas carols, ball games and comfortable beds, despite television, air-conditioning, drive-in movies and Disneyland, despite reassuring politicians, warm handshakes and cool milk shakes; we nevertheless live in a world of horrors, some actual, and some potential and dangerously impending.

1.3 Despite the misleading decorations, we live in a Black Museum.

1.4 The horrors in no way detract from the validity of the pleasures. But equally the pleasures in no way reduce the blackness of the horrors.

1.5 The trouble is that we have grown so accustomed to the blackness that although in itself it has not changed, yet FOR US it has taken on a mild and harmless looking shade of dull grey. We have trained ourselves to digest every horror painlessly with our breakfast cereals.

2 "WHERE THEN IS THE LOVE OF GOD FOR HIS CHILDREN?"

2.1 But if you have not become immune, and the horrors for you remain horrors, do you not wonder: "Where then is the love of GOD for His children?"

2.2 Let me explain something.

2.3 Life can only be reached by going through the Valley of the Shadow of Death. On its most immediate level, this means that satisfaction can be had only when we have experienced DISSatisfaction, release only when we have known tension, freedom only when we have felt the effects of confinement.

2.4 Therefore there has to be a part of the Valley of the Shadow of Death where ALL HOPE IS LOST; all faith, all knowledge, all love, all positivity. Death is not truly Death if there is still within it, a hope of ultimate Life. So even THAT must be extinguished for the 'Shadow' to be complete.

3 WE MUST ALL BE DAMNED IN ORDER TO BE SAVED

3.1 Christ entered Hell before His Resurrection. Are we to believe that He merely sojourned there for a while as an honored guest?

3.2 By no means. Hell is not Hell unless it is hell !

3.3 It's' not a location, its a state of being. You cannot visit Hell -- in spite of Dante -- without entering the state which belongs to Hell, WHICH IS A STATE OF DAMNATION.

3.4 When we say that Christ descended into Hell, we mean that Christ was damned. HE EXPERIENCED A STATE OF DAMNATION. He HAD to in order to reach a state of Resurrection.

3.5 Just as we all must die in order to be reborn, so we must all be damned in order to be saved.

4 A FEELING, WHICH AMOUNTS TO A CONVICTION, THAT THE PAIN WILL NEVER END

4.1 BUT, you may protest, surely by definition Damnation is ETERNAL.

4.2 Paradoxically, yes, But just as Hell is not simply a location in space, eternity is not simply a span of time. Both are states of being.

4.3 Objectively there is no such thing as eternal pain -- meaning pain that lasts forever. (As 'ever' has not happened yet -- nor ever will for that matter -- we can hardly speak of it objectively !) But there is most decidedly such a thing as SENSE of eternal pain. And that is Damnation. That is the ultimate nightmare; a FEELING, which amounts to a conviction, that the pain will ever end, but will steadily increase, infinitely and therefore to infinite proportions.

4.4 THAT,if you can imagine -- or have experienced -- such a state of being, is Damnation.

4.5 It does not HAPPEN. It cannot HAPPEN. All the laws of the Universe PREVENT it from happening. The pain has to come to an end, and be replaced with its opposite. But that fact does nothing to lessen the totality of the CONVICTION -- at the time of the experience -- that it will never come to an end.

5 "MY GOD, MY GOD, WHY HAVE YOU ABANDONED ME?"

5.1 Christ gave us a clue, when he cried out just before His own death: "My God, My God, why have You abandoned me?"

5.2 Can you imagine what he felt at that moment?

5.3 The physical pain was nothing by comparison. He knew that, that must end with death, or even before with a state of unconsciousness. But alienation from GOD; abandonment by GOD; that is a pain of the soul which apparently need never end.

5.4 And Christ was not talking about any temporary absence on GOD's part. He had been 'on His own' as it were all His life, and that had not felt like abandonment by GOD. Being crucified was not His evidence of abandonment. He had taken on that burden deliberately and without despair.

5.5 No, something happened to His state of being shortly before He died. He faced Damnation. He experienced a sense of eternal pain. He experienced the ultimate nightmare.

5.6 IT WAS A NECESSARY PRELUDE TO HIS RESURRECTION.

6 DO NOT FEAR EITHER FOR YOURSELF OR FOR OTHERS

6.1 So be aware of the horrors of this world, but do not despair either for yourself or for the rest of mankind.

6.2 Do not despair for yourself of being able to meet the requirements, of being able to exchange blindness and ignorance for the specified quantities of knowledge and awareness. And do not despair for the rest of mankind. Whatever role he might play, each individual will be relieved at the right time and in the right way, of his human burden, whether it is sin or sorrow.

6.3 Satan's own Karma has brought Him the deepest possible sense of eternal alienation from GOD, and yet Satan is raised up to the joy of Unity with Christ at the End.

6.4 He who has sunk lowest and suffered most is equally raised highest and given the greatest joy. That is the Law of the Universe.

6.5 Sin, together with its painful consequences -- the Universal Law spares no one -- is a burden that is carried by those who are equal to the task.

6.6 So do not fear either for yourself or for others.

6.7 Do not fear either for the abysmally blind. For the burden of abysmal blindness is their Karma.

6.8 Do not fear for the last opposition to GOD's Will and those who enact it. They too are subject to GOD's Love and will be brought to Salvation.

6.9 Do not fear even for the final stronghold of the Lie and those who defend it. They are also children of GOD, and will be drawn into GOD's aura when their unenviable work is completed.

6.10 Forgiveness is the release from the burden of a negative function, together with divine gratitude for having made the sacrifice of performing it.

6.11 Judas himself is subject to Redemption -- not merely excused, but released, with gratitude and validation for having played his agonizing but essential part.

7 EVERY ONE OF US RECEIVES HIS DUE REWARD

7.1 Every one of us has burdens to carry.

7.2 Whether we carry them in blindness or awareness depends upon their nature.

7.3 And the nature of our burdens depends on the part in the Game which we choose -- or are

chosen -- to play.

7.4 But when the task is done, when all the agony required to be felt -- even to the ultimate of seemingly eternal agony -- and the time for Redemption has arrived, whatever part we have played, and however consciously or unconsciously we have played it, every one of us receives his due reward.

7.5 In the moment of our death we are reborn. In the moment of our Damnation we are Redeemed.

7.6 GOD does not ultimately reject even the most intractable of His children.

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