

## ***Course In Miracles***

### **Chapter I:**

God created by extending Himself into all of His creations. You have been created perfect. A note that vibrates at a perfect pitch is perfect. God glories in His creations and is present in every one of them. He also gave to humans all of His own powers to create. However, you do not feel, now, the joy of vibrating at a perfect pitch. You more likely feel defective empty, or depressed. You cannot use the power of God because you are filled with doubt. Even worse, you are at war against yourself. And worst of all you have lost the ecstatic feeling of being totally loved and lovable and thus capable of extending this to others.

How did all of this happen? God gave man free will. To do this, He had to allow a portion of His mind to split from Him, and to go its own way if it chose to do so. This temporary, imagined separation has led to fear and the belief that man created himself. At first, creating things by oneself was fun, but man's imagination began creating demons that come back to haunt him. (Much like Harold, the lonely little boy who painted pictures on his bedroom wall until he became lost and terrified.) Eventually, many souls became entrapped in matter and encased in a fleshly body that it identifies with and within which it struggles now to keep vital and attractive for 50 to 60 years before it becomes sickly, a burden and dies.

Depression is the expected result of a spirit trapped in matter, as well as feeling lack, helplessness, loneliness and fear. To this is added loss, guilt, anger, worthlessness and rejection. No wonder the idea of suicide, at one time or another crosses the mind of many people. No wonder we seek distractions, bodily pleasures, and drugs. No wonder we seek selfish gain, power, wealth, and the brief adrenal rush of conquest. Natural are the feeling of pleasure, joy, gratitude, and the ecstasy of life itself. Instead we are burdened by comparison, competition, striving for specialness, and the earning of love. What a conundrum to a being born of pure love and with a birthright to all God has to offer! It is a tragic story but none of it, including your imagined guilt is more real than a dream.

God is not offended. He has all eternity to wait for his prodigal son to change his mind and return home. But why wait even another lifetime! Out Intellect takes us in the opposite direction. The more we learn, the less we think that

a God is necessary. Thus, even the wisest of our philosophers continue to believe that there is no personal God. What more incredible example can be given of the power of denial!

In Genesis 2:21: "God cast Adam into a deep sleep." There is no mention of his ever awakening. Thus all that we experience, now, is but a play of the split mind, having no permanence or reality of itself. In this dream, nothing that can be perceived with our five senses has any reality or meaning.

The return of all souls to the Sonship is called the "Atonement" or at-one-ment. This will inevitably occur despite free will because there is a limit to the pain a soul can tolerate by miscreation. God is lonely without his Sons, and they are lonely without Him.

Jesus is in charge of the Atonement. As a man, He showed the way by living a perfect life. What this means is that he listened to and heeded the voice of God in his head from birth to his death. For this, he was rewarded with all power over heaven and earth. This includes His total control over time and space as well.

Time is given to us as a teaching device. The body is innocent. It, too, is merely a learning device for mastery of the mind. If it suffers from pain and illness, this is due to unforgiveness and fear in the mind. Physical medications are forms of "spells," but if you are afraid to use the mind to heal, it is best you do not try to. Magical thinking does not work for long, but medications may reduce fear through a temporary placebo effect.

Truth is truth and is unchangeable. What we perceive with our limited senses in a constantly changing dream is a play of the split mind, which is not real but can be used as a learning device to help us to perceive what is real. Life becomes a different experience for everyone, because it is only a projection of separated minds. Sin comes from the Latin "sine" without love. We were created as a vibration of pure love, while given free will that allows us to separate from God and to experience the opposite - however with no

permanency and no harm done to anyone. The return comes through "forgiveness," which releases the dream from any meaning.

This is the echo dimension: what we project is played back upon us. We seek to enhance ourselves by special relationships, possessions, and approval by others. However, there is another way to see the world and yourself in it. Sin, sickness, injustice and attack become a reality made worse by memory, which fosters its repetition. All you ever wanted was love, to feel worthy of it, and to receive it gratefully and fully. This is the Truth, and what the Course teaches is how we can now return to Truth.

The work of the Atonement is not easy because of resistance, denial, and the power that the mind gives to the ego. Therefore miracles are required as a means for the atonement.

