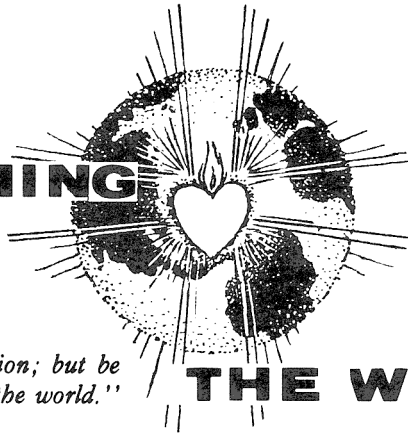


OVERCOMING



THE WORLD

ELSA GLOVER

"In the world you have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world."
John 16:33

In Heaven, things are not as separate as they are on Earth. There, all feelings and thoughts tend to blend and harmonize with one another. Thus Christ Jesus, Who had the heavenly consciousness even when He was on Earth, was able to see the oneness of all. He said, "I am not alone, for the Father is with me," (*John 16:32*, and "I am in the Father, and you in me, and I in you." (*John 14:20*)

Christ also was able to channel the harmonizing powers of Heaven to bring peace and harmony to Earth. "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you." (*John 14:27*) Since disease is a manifestation of disharmony, Christ was able to heal the sick.

When men lived in "Heaven" (as it is described symbolically in the biblical account of the Garden of Eden), they lived in harmony with God and with each other. In fact, men were so united in consciousness that the Bible uses the symbols of one man (Adam) and one woman (Eve) to represent the whole of humanity. However, men ate of the tree of knowledge (became aware of themselves), and lost the heavenly consciousness (were driven from the Garden of Eden). As a result, they began to act selfishly and not to harmonize their acts with the acts of others or with the laws of the universe. Hence men became plagued with wars and sickness.

Christ came to Earth in order to show men, by precept and by example, how to overcome the disharmonies of worldly existence. He told people that they first should examine themselves:

"Why do you see the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye? Or how can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' when there is a log in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother's eye." *Matt. 7:3-5*

When a woman who had committed adultery and whom the crowd was about to stone was brought to Christ, He said, "Let him who is without sin among you be the first to throw a stone at her." And everyone left. *Matt. 87:3-11*

When asked what the great commandment in the Law was, Christ replied, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it, You shall love your neighbor as yourself." *Matt 22:37-38*. Love is a uniting of consciousness, and where there is love, peace and harmony result.

Much of the rest of Christ's teaching is devoted to restating in different ways this exhortation to love. In a world which has forgotten what true love is, it often takes some more concrete statements to get the idea across. Thus Christ told people, "Whatever you wish that men would do to you, do so to them," (*Matt. 7:12*) and "Whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be your slave; even as the Son of man came not to be served but to serve, and

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SILENCE

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individual, because the road is inside himself and no one can prevent him from growing in the light of truth. The whole process is patiently to revitalize the path that leads in silent harmony to the inner sense of values.

The Christian Mystic, Jacob Boehme, expressed this truth in the form of a dialogue between the Master and his disciple. The disciple said to the Master: "How can I succeed in arriving at that supersensual life in which I may see and hear the Supreme?" The Master answered: "If you can only for a moment enter in thought into the formless, where no creature resides, you will hear the voice of the Supreme." The disciple said: "Is this far or near?" The Master answered: "It is in yourself, and if you can command only for one hour the silence of your desires, you will hear the inexpressible words of the Supreme. If your own will and self are silent in you, the perception of the Eternal will be manifest through you; God will hear, and see, and talk through you. Your own hearing, desiring, and seeing prevents you from seeing and hearing the Supreme." ★

Three dynamic keywords are associated with esoteric teaching. They are *concentration, meditation, and silence*. To be silent means to let no other language be heard but the language of God, to listen to the voice of divine wisdom speaking within the heart. ★

WESTERN WISDOM BIBLE STUDIES

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to give his life as a ransom for many." *Matt. 20:26-28.*

More specifically, Christ exhorted people to feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, welcome strangers, clothe the naked, visit those who are sick and in prison, give to those who ask and to the poor, and preach the gospel and heal the sick. (*Matt. 25:35-45, Matt. 5:42, Matt. 19:21, Luke 9:2, and Luke 10:29-37*). It may be noted that love is the greatest Law and can supercede any other instruc-

tions. Thus, for example, if someone asks for something which would do him harm, love would dictate that he not be given what he asks for. Christ further qualified the law of giving to those who asked when He said, "Let the children first be fed, for it is not right to take the children's bread and throw it to the dogs." *Mark 7:27.* He also cautioned, "Do not give dogs what is holy; and do not throw your pearls before swine, lest they trample them under foot and turn to attack you." *Matt. 7:6.* Thus, an all-encompassing love would dictate that we learn how to use the resources in our charge so that they will be of the greatest service to mankind as a whole. ★

THE CHILDREN OF CANCER

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represents the Ego who has consciously entered into the higher realms of nature in full control of his spiritual faculties. **GREEK MYTHOLOGY** — Two primary Moon goddesses are Demeter and Persephone (mother and daughter), whose mythologies are highly symbolical of the rhythms and cycles of fertility, creativity, development, and unfoldment found in man and Nature. Gea (Earth) and Rhea are more closely connected with the Earth, but their important roles at the beginning of creation in helping to bring forth the initial order of things are closely associated with the operation of Moon forces. This reflects the occult fact that the Moon was once a part of the Earth, having been thrown off from the latter in the early part of the Lemurian Epoch. There is also a certain amount of Moon lore to be found in the mythologies of Artemis and Hestia.

COSMIC CHRISTIANITY — Cancer is the sign of the summer solstice, the time of year when the spiritual forces are more distant from man so that he can better concentrate on the physical side of his existence and apply himself to learn the lessons that are contained there. During this time, the Cosmic Christ rests in the bosom of the Father and renews the strength which He has wholly spent for our sakes in the course of the past year. ★