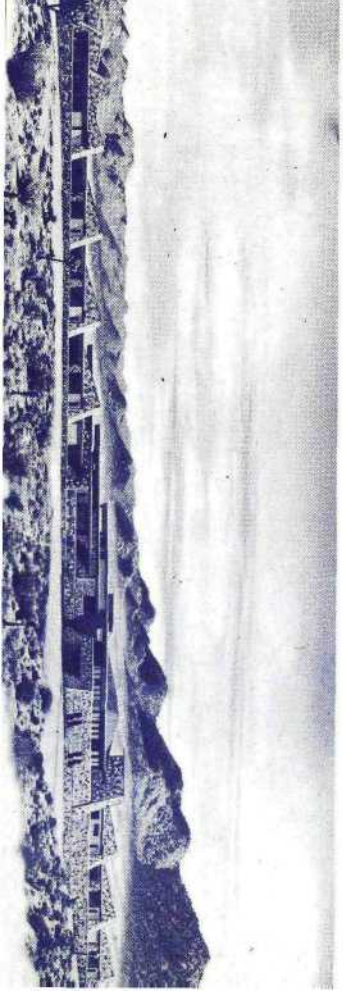

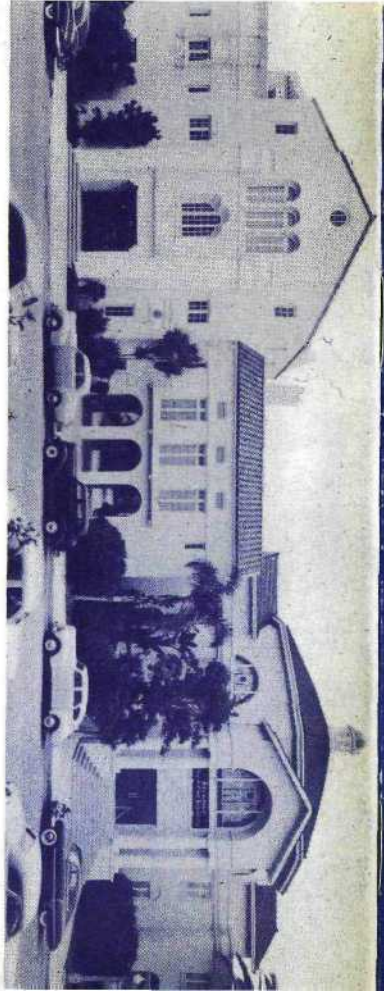

Top: Our Church in Los Angeles, Calif. Below: Caravansary of Joy at Our New City.

LIGHTING HUMAN LAMPS

LIBRARY OF VICTORIOUS LIVING

VOLUME 1

Evolution Series No. 1

The Ethereal Kingdom.

The Secret of Victorious Living

By

Rev. Edwin J. Dingle

Ding Le Mei

(Founder of the Science of Mentalphysics)

LIBRARY OF VICTORIOUS LIVING

The purpose of the 50 little volumes that will make up the "Library of Victorious Living" is to present to you who read a perfectly simple and ultimate plan for living a highly successful life from every point of view. Each volume is an invitation to learn—as practically as you may learn anything whatever if you put your effort into it—how to discover your own true nature and your own illimitable powers.

Throughout your life, most likely, with much running to and fro, you may have been (as I was) eagerly seeking in books and teaching, in religion and philosophy, for Truth, for Happiness, for Freedom, for God —or for you knew not what. You may today be weary, fatigued, discouraged, almost destitute of hope. Many times you may have glimpsed the Truth, and then it disappeared, and left you still hungering. Hungry, you sought in vain the Bread of Life—thirsty, you sought but could not find The Stream. Your search, my friend, is now at an end, if you **have** eyes to see and ears to hear.

No matter what your religious beliefs—indeed, no matter what!—that which you have always sought IS WITHIN YOU. This is Life's most sacred secret. From a careful study of these little books, it is given to me to know, you will gain immeasurable spiritual benefit. As you read, it will be to your Higher Self that you will listen.

If you are ready, as you read and study you will hear the voice of your Higher Self speaking forth from your own heart the secret of Health and Happiness, Success and Abundance, Freedom and that Peace that passes knowledge. Be patient. Be zealous. Learn to surrender into the Joy of your own LORD within you.

THE AUTHOR.

The Science of Mentalphysics was founded in 1927

THIS IS THE FIRST OF THE "FIFTY LITTLE BOOKS"

The Secret of Victorious Living

By Edwin John Dingle,
Founder of the Science of Mentalphysics

This is the first of fifty little books that will solve for you the whole Riddle of your universe. As you read, I speak to you. That is obvious. But it is my hope that you will see that, though I am speaking, it is the Real You, your own Highest Self, that truly speaks. May you be inclined to listen. For no matter who you are, no matter what your personal problems may be, these little books will set you safely on the Path to their complete solution. All that is asked is that you be sincere—and fearlessly honest in your reading and study. Though the instructions given for the use of any instrument could not be more clear, merely reading them through does not guarantee that you will be able to efficiently use the instrument; you have to **LEARN HOW TO USE IT.** You will probably find ideas in these little books that are new to you. Because of this, you should not turn away. Rather should you pull the ideas apart by fairly criticizing them, without prejudice thinking about them, and by trying to replace them by

others. You may have to read slowly. You may have to go over certain passages more than once; therefore, be patient. Develop the habit of listening to your own Higher Self, to the Great Unity within you, to your own God . . . then, even if the words in this little book do not instantly register themselves *as* the voice of the Living Truth of Life within you, true enlightenment is bound to flow to you in exact relation to your own evolutionary development to receive.

You and I know that the human race is passing through one of the darkest periods of its history.

No part of the world (not even the hitherto isolated Tibet on the roof of the world) has escaped the impact of the international struggle. Man had become inordinately proud of what he called his amazing civilization. But something happened. Two world wars came, with their unspeakably diabolical horror—and wars of a different nature combine in increasing intensity. Wherever we look we see individuals, we see nations, we see the whole human race suffering from an uneasiness and fear which nothing seems to be able to remove. It is a kind of anesthesia which, certainly in all Occidental countries, has come in the wake of a stupefying mechanical progress that began five or six decades ago. Wherever we look we read fear in the hearts and minds of human beings—Man is afraid of his own astounding mechanical progress; one nation is afraid of another nation and perhaps all nations; many nations, linked together in what is believed to be sincerity, are haphazardly endeavoring to find the

solution of what should be the simplest human problem. Not alone in the United States, but in many Occidental countries(a n dsome Orientalcountries,thoughtheirstandards differ very widely) the progress on the material side of civilization has kept men in almost breathless expectation of the next mechanical or industrial miracle. This worship of materialism became the Alpha and Omega of human living. With few exceptions in the various countries of the earth, most human beings worshipped the Mammon of the material results of science and invention, believing that here lay the solution to all the problems of Man's boasted civilization.

As this brilliant panorama of invention after invention continued, men everywhere came to believe that the making and the possession of things was their infallible answer. There was consequently no time or inclination to consider Man's true problems—the HUMAN problems of men everywhere—no matter what race or color.

So there came among men a real disease of reason, and as we look around the world today we find the seductive wealth of materialism being worshipped by scientists, technicians, and (most unfortunately) by the masses, with only a comparative sprinkling of advanced thinking men and women who, though perhaps almost paralyzed with skepticism as to the future of the human race, believe in the divinity of Man on this earth. It is obvious to anyone who thinks that this condition of the world today is because men do not know enough of The Thing That Is—which men call God.

Among the churches, there goes on a campaign to get men and women "back to God"; but, and I say this with deep solemnity, it seems to me that the teaching of the churches has not run parallel with the unfoldment of God's Will through science. By science, I mean a knowledge of God's Works—by religion, I mean a knowledge of what actually is God. God is completely revealed only in His Law—by what He has done. And again, (I speak most solemnly), if what is called "Christ's Gospel," as the church has taught it and exemplified it, can produce no better than the prevailing conditions in our present world, then something must be lacking. The world condition— you know it and I know it—could not be much worse if Jesus the Christ had never lived or taught his sublime and final Way.

And, to you, my dear reader, I would say that if you are satisfied with your own life and with present prevailing world conditions, you should not waste your time by reading further in this little book.

But if you feel—as I am sure you do—that there exists some new method of bringing about what may be called Man's Salvation, that you recognize that you have your own responsibility in helping to bring a great world change to humanity, and if you feel that your own heart and mind are filled with a righteous discontent, then I feel that you may find something of true helpfulness to you in these little books.

I hope that you are able definitely and convincingly and finally to say to yourself that you know that THERE

IS NOTHING BUT GOD. That being so, what are YOU? It is my hope that, in the contemplation and the practice of axioms unfolded in these little books, you will be able finally to discover, with your heart, that "WHATEVER THE CREATOR IS, I AM." If you will merely contemplate these six words in silence, I am sure that, even without a knowledge of the precepts which I shall unfold to you in this and forty-nine other little books in this "Library of Victorious Living," you will be able to realize something of their scope and power: "WHATEVER THE CREATOR IS, I AM." This is Life's greatest secret.

PART 1:
THE TRUE SECRET OF A VICTORIOUS LIFE

Now, in the consideration of The Secret of Victorious Living, it is necessary for us to know just what we may be able to expect of ourselves. To what degree have we the equipment, and how may we become capable of being truly victorious in life? Therefore, you must enter into an analysis of yourself in which you do not err. During the next few pages I shall quote from the Documentary Lessons of the Initiate Group Course of Mentalphysics, which has as its title "THE HOLY OF HOLIES," I can go back to my study in Oakland, California, and I again look out upon the eucalyptus trees waving in the breeze, and I can see the San Francisco Bay sparkling in the sunshine. I shall never forget the extreme liquidity of the beauty of that morning. I seemed to be within myself—

and without myself. And then, "Something" wrote through me, because surely it was not I who could write this.

This Documentary Lesson, "The Holy of Holies." is the most important treatise on Truth that you have ever read in your life. As you merely read, what is embodied in this lesson may strike you as quite elementary truth. You may say, "Oh, yes, I have heard of that before. I fancy that I have read it somewhere." Yet in Oriental schools, the greatest of all schools of philosophy on this earth today, the truth embodied in the words that I shall now speak to you is given to the student only as a **final initiation,** and then only after a very arduous probation.

But the teaching of the TRUTH of Mentalphysics depends upon a proper **realization** . . . a proper "making real" to yourself of this knowledge, so that you control and compel it. Therefore, in Mentalphysics we do not gradually lead up to it. We use it as a starting point, and he who may, can—but only he who is ready dare—take. So we make it a starting point. I assume you are an earnest seeker. I assume you are ready for this transcendental knowledge to be vouchsafed to you. **YOU MUST BE READY!**

Therefore, before I go on, let me warn you, who may not quite understand, that hearing this or reading this will make you more ready than you were. If you be **ready,** then God's blessing in Its fullness be upon you, because there is naught greater that you will be able to learn, no matter what you read nor how much intellectual activity you may engage in. And then, you see, even when you are ready, **there must be no conflict of thinking.** You must

be restful. You must be at peace. You must submit. You should not argue with God! . . . you have to watch **What God is,** and **What God Does.** And that is all!

Let us see then, my Beloved, whether we can watch to see how we are equipped for true victorious living!

We will imagine that you and I are in a garden or, perhaps, in a great park. We sit and are at rest. We look about us. We lose sight of each other, because we **are looking within ourselves.** Or, perhaps, we are looking at the trees, the grass, the flowers. We are SILENT within ourselves, as we serenely contemplate the serenity of Nature roundabout us. We see, as we have probably never noticed before, **a creativeness everywhere!** This Creativeness is **always at work!** It is never-ceasing in its activity! **It knows its work absolutely!**

(a) The Triune Activity of Life

Let us consider any living thing—say, an apple tree. Do you not see that the apple tree knows how to make apples, and that the apple tree is the only thing that you have ever met or ever will that can make an apple! Not even a man can make an apple! But the knowledge of how to make an apple is universal with all apple trees. Apple trees are the only things that can make apples. An oyster: Do you not see that the oyster knows exactly how and where to build its shell and make the pearl—Man can imitate, but he cannot make a pearl. The Japanese will fool you time and time again about real pearls, but they cannot make a pearl. They can make a wonderful imitation. You see, the

Creative Spirit—the Spirit of Creation—the Thing That Is—knows. And It is within the oyster, doing Its work through the oyster.

It is the same with everything in life, is it not—with the apple tree, the oyster, a poppy, a man, a woman—**everything?** A human being is the only thing that can make a human being. Every living thing is the only thing that has the power to reproduce itself and continue the Stream of Life that flows everywhere through the Universe unceasingly.

I say, **the Creative Spirit within the acorn knows exactly how to make the giant oak tree.**

We are **sure** of that, are we not? Don't argue with yourself! Are you **sure?**

As we look at this Creativeness, this Creative Spirit, this Thing That does the work, this Thing That does the thinking, this Thing That has the energy, this Something That you **may call by any name whatsoever,** we can see that It is always at work and, as we look upon It, we see **three things,** or **three phases** of Its nature or power:

FIRST—we can see that IT IS INTELLIGENT. It never makes a pear where an apple should be, it never makes a carrot where an onion should be, and so on **ad inflnitum** through the countless chapters in the great Book of Nature. It is wise. It always KNOWS HOW. It is the Master. It is the root of all "know-how."

SECOND—we can see that IT IS EVERYWHERE PRESENT. There is no place where It is not. You cannot imagine It not being everywhere.

THIRD—we can see that IT HAS THE POWER TO DO ALL THINGS. **It has the power to do all things!** Things that you do, It does! Things that you **cannot** do, It **can** do! You and I have to learn to watch, when we cannot do a thing, how It does the thing. It has the power to do **all** things—to make the apple, to make the oyster, to make the oak, to make the human being, to make ALL THINGS WHATSOEVER IN THE UNIVERSE!

(b) How the Creativeness Works

Perhaps you have never thought of Life in this way before. I confess that I had not, until in far away Tibet many years ago—and it was very wonderful to me—it was brought to my attention somewhat in this way. We may think a long time or a short time over what I have said, but finally we shall be **compelled** to admit that these three words therefore appear . . . they emerge . . . they evolve; if we are wise and restful, we shall be able to see them at once:

FIRST—Omniscience . . . **Omni**-science . . . you know the meaning of the word. The faculty of knowing everything; knowledge unbounded; knowledge infinite. Knowledge of everything we have ever discovered or uncovered anywhere. Knowledge of that which we do not know—from the atom to the sun, from the merest movement of the jellyfish far down in the slime, to atomic power, which today men largely fear. Beyond that even . . . **OMNISCIENCE.**

SECOND—Omnipresence . . . meaning present in one and all places at the same time. It is difficult to imagine that, because our knowledge is so slight, but our imagination will help us. No matter what we can imagine of what we call the Universe, either within ourselves or without ourselves, It is present. If it were not, you simply would not be. OMNIPRESENCE.

THIRD—Omnipotence . . . power. Just think of power. Have you ever played with a magnet? Have you ever driven an automobile? Have you ever been in love? Have you ever done anything where you could **see the effect of power?** Well, this is ALL THE POWER! Unlimited, infinite power . . . almighty power! **OMNIPOTENCE.**

So you see, these three things—Omniscience, Omnipresence, Omnipotence—are everywhere in the Universe. There is not a single embodiment of Life, from the minute of the minutest to the greatest of the great, in which they are **not** existent.

OMNISCIENCE . . . all knowledge—all of it.
OMNIPRESENCE . . . all presence—everywhere.
OMNIPOTENCE . . . all power—unlimited and infinite.

(Now, I suggest that you rest. Do not read for a moment or two. Contemplate your OWN life. You are to learn how you may lead yourself into the Secret of Victorious living—true victory in your life.)

(c) The Origin of All Things

Now, my Beloved, these three comprise ONE! These

three comprise a **TRIUNE ACTIVITY,** a threefold activity, and this threefold activity, completely dependent and interdependent, forms the ONE which is **THE ORIGIN** OF **ALL THINGS!** You are the mother of your child—you are the father of your child . . . thou fool! "I did this"—"I can do that" . . . thou fool! **THIS** . . . **IT** . . . call it what you will . . . **IS THE ORIGIN OF ALL THINGS!**

I am endeavoring to very simply place before you this beautiful truth. It could, of course, be presented to you in much more learned phraseology—even I could do that—but in many words we always find increasing confusion. You must get your idea of it for you . . . I must, for me. If you cannot feel it—if, at this instant, you cannot feel that this is true—if you cannot, looking within your own heart, say, with gratitude overflowing within you and with humility keeping you down to the lowest degree of self-effacement, that YOU ARE GOD IN HUMAN FORM . . . then, **wait!** Try and **reason** it out for yourself. You will find that you will be compelled to come to the same conclusion. But to reason a thing out, merely to get an intellectual comprehension of it, is entirely different from a spiritual realization of it.

You can feel your imagination at work, can you not? Or you may have thought about this Creativeness—this "Something" that I am talking about, that is UNIVERSAL—somewhat in this way before. But I shall not quarrel with you if you do not see what I am trying to expound. If you do, you will see that God . . . that GOD . . . I do not care whether you be a Roman Catholic or a,

Christian Scientists—I do not care if you be what is called an atheist or a Parsi, a Mohammedan or a Hindu, or what I am (although I do not know what I am . . . I am "nothing")—**but, no matter what you are, you will see that the God that you have always visualized, even" from infancy, whether as a Being up in some nebulous place called Heaven, or in any other manner, is really THE CREATIVE PRINCIPLE EVERYWHERE EQUALLY PRESENT!**

And, consequently, IT CAN BE KNOWN—it can come to be known by you — INFINITELY MORE INTIMATELY THAN A FATHER KNOWS HIS SON.

Then, you see, we come to **know,** we come to **feel,** we come to see, that MY GOD IS WHERE I AM! I AM "MY GOD"!

Then, you see, we discover that created man and the Creator are **not detached.** MAN AND GOD ARE ONE.

Then, you see, we come to know that "I and My Father are One" which means "the same" thing.

They are not separate entities. That which we call God —that which we have many names for—is WITHIN US . . . WITHIN YOU . . . WITHIN ME. God, the Creative Spirit, the Infinite Wisdom, Jehovah, the First Cause, the Supreme Architect, Parabrahm—many, many names—the Father in Heaven . . . THE ONE . . . THE ONE THAT IS MADE UP OF THIS TRIUNE PRINCIPLE—Omniscience, Omnipresence, Omnipotence. And It is **within us.**

The command of One Great Teacher is "Seek ye FIRST **that",** and he called it the "Kingdom of Heaven."

(d) The Basic Fact of All Existence

Now, I trust that the Light of this tremendous Truth will flood your mind as you read.

You will see, you will see that you feel, you will feel that you see, that you have discovered the very basic fact of All existence. To know it thoroughly is to have solved the Riddle of the Universe. We in Mentalphysics do know it thoroughly, for now we have **the Key!**

You will see that, in discovering this basic fact of All existence, you have discovered the greatest thing that any man can know . . . even greater than the source or origin or even the power of atomic power. It is the greatest thing that any man **can** know! Because knowing it perfectly, all things are possible to him.

You will see that, as you contemplate this profound Truth, you are leading yourself into the Mystery of Mysteries, into the Holy of Holies. You are leading yourself right into the Heart of God, and you have every right to be there.

IT IS AT ONCE THE GREATEST TRUTH THAT CAN BE TAUGHT BY ANY TEACHER OR LEARNED BY ANY STUDENT.

Some initiates, by a sudden flash of intuition, will see and realize this profound truth in a moment. Others may have to toil and wait for its realization. But what does it matter? We get exactly what we are ready for; we get exactly what is ours. Well, if you have to toil and wait . . . then TOIL AND WAIT! Wait and murmur not.

But mark this well: UNLESS THIS GREAT TRUTH COMES TO YOU INTUITIONALLY, CLEAR THROUGH TO YOUR CONSCIOUSNESS BY THE LIGHT OF YOUR OWN DIVINE INTUITION, THERE IS ONLY ONE WAY TO GET IT. Not by sitting down and reasoning it out. Not by getting pencil and paper and drawing graphs, and entering actively into all the phases of mathematics. No! There is only one way—BY GOING INTO THE SILENCE! BY BEING STILL! BY GOING INTO YOUR OWN HEART AND SAYING, **"O Lord, whose face I cannot see, Whose Love has not yet been fully revealed to me, but Who resides within me, open Thou my heart!"** And **wait!** It is as sure as people believe the "rising sun" to be. It is exactly what causes the sun to rise; and yet the sun never rises—the sun always is.

(e) An Intellectual Conception

Now, my Beloved, if you cannot fully realize this truth so that you feel you are on fire with the joy that it brings, let us contemplate it in another way. Let us contemplate it in an intellectual way. Let me be as your college professor—I do not know what sort of a college professor would make, but still let us try to reason this out.

We can all, I am sure, **feel** to some degree that it is a possibility. Many of us, we give thanks, feel that **we know . . . we know** that we **feel** it to be true. Let us reason it out:

Are you or are you not a part of the Universe? Well, obviously, you are. The answer is "Yes, I am."

Can the Universe be complete without all its parts? Well, can anything be complete without all its parts? Obviously, the answer is "No, it cannot."

Therefore, without you (do not think of anything or anybody else), can it be complete? Oh, I know what you are thinking . . . the same as I am thinking. **"I am not worthy."** But, in cold logic, **can it be complete without you?** The answer is "No." That is categorical.

Therefore, its completeness literally depends upon you? It is true, is it not?

Therefore, without you, it cannot exist in completeness? Obviously again, the answer is "No, it cannot."

Then, you can say—or can you say? . . . you figure it out—in all truth—

> BECAUSE OF THIS . . . BECAUSE THE UNIVERSE CANNOT BE COMPLETE WITHOUT ME, BECAUSE I AM A VITAL PART OF IT, I, EXISTING AS I AM, STAND TO THIS UNIVERSE AS A CENTER DOES TO A CIRCLE. IN THIS CASE, I AM THE CENTER.

Now, get that. Are you the center of your own world? Are you the center of mine? No! Get out! There is no place for two of us. You can truthfully say—

> I AM THE CENTER OF MY WORLD! YOU ARE THE CENTER OF YOUR WORLD!
>
> YOU ARE, THEREFORE, THE CENTER OF YOUR UNIVERSE—the Circumference is everywhere.
>
> WITHOUT A CENTER, NO CIRCUMFERENCE CAN EXIST.

Remembering all that, we can see that the Creator is—
First—ALL THE KNOWLEDGE THERE IS (Omniscience).
Second—ALL THE PRESENCE THERE IS (Omnipresence).
Third—ALL THE POWER . . . ALL THE FORCE THERE IS (OMNIPOTENCE).

(f) The Creator Is All That There Is

As nothing can exist outside of the "All" . . . (remember our references to the Universe—it is the **All,** and nothing can exist outside of the "ALL") . . . we arrive quite logically, do we not, **right now,** at the wonderful knowledge that "THE CREATOR, GOD, THE CREATIVE SPIRIT, THE SUPREME ARCHITECT, PARABRAHM (anything that you care to call It), **THAT** IS ALL THAT THERE IS." There is nothing else. "Oh, but God is up above in some nebulous place called Heaven." Well, go thy way—Thy time will come! But when we get away from the difficulty of nomenclature and the nonsense of using many words, the idea, in its supreme light, shines out.

GOD IS ALL THAT THERE IS! Well, you yourself are God! "THE CREATOR IS ALL THAT THERE IS."

Now, carry the idea one step further, remembering what we have said, and you can **truthfully** affirm—

> "SINCE THE CREATOR IS ALL THAT THERE IS, SINCE I AM THE CENTER AND THE CIRCUMFERENCE IS EVERYWHERE, I AM THE CREATOR!"
>
> "I am the Creator?" "Oh, Yes." **"How** am I the Creator?" "Well, I am the Creator of my universe, which is the All That There Is to me, not as a worm crawling on the earth, but I am the Creator . . . a human being . . . 'made in The Image', **I am the Creator in Human Form. I create my world by God's Thought through me!"**

Let us carry the idea another step, and we arrive at the most stupendous truth that can **ever be known,** since all human knowledge is in some way derived from it. You can now truthfully affirm:

"Therefore, WHATEVER . . . WHATEVER . . . THE CREATOR IS, I AM."

Is it true? "Oh, yes, I learned that in———". No, you did not! You acquired only an intellectual conception of it "in———". Now, we have to **learn** it!

PART 2:
THE EVOLUTIONARY PRINCIPLE EXPLAINED

"WHATEVER THE CREATOR IS, I AM."

Let us now consider the WAY of what men call God. In what you may visualize as the Great Beginning all was still. It was a Kingdom of stillness—in Mentalphysics we call this the Ethereal Kingdom. I invite you, then, to consider the Ethereal Kingdom, the first of the seven Kingdoms

which make up what we may call God's Universe—**God's** complete expression.*

Well, you now can see how fully equipped you are to enter upon the Secrets of Victorious Living.

You will agree with me that it is an axiom of logic that the final cause is the end for which everything exists; you exist, I exist, for the final cause, whatever it is. The reason you and I exist, in the form and on the plane of Life that we do, is because we are on our way, through infinite development and evolution, to God's absolute Intelligence. That is the first and final precept in **Mentalphysics,** and until the aspirant learns this truth—that Man Is God in Human Form—he has not yet prepared himself for the realization of this finality of all truth. We look about us, and we see that you and I stand, as it appears, between **(a) the universe without us; (b) the universe within us.** Man has to discover what he is in actuality, and whether he studies (a) the universe without or (b) the universe within, he must finally learn that what he is seeking **is within himself,** though he finds himself continually beset with dangers in accepting appearances or realities and **vice versa.**

In looking even most cursorily upon the outer universe,

***There ore seven kingdoms, as follows:**
(1) THE ETHEREAL KINGDOM—God's 1st Cycle of Expression
(2) THE SIDEREAL KINGDOM—God's 2nd Cycle of Expression
(3) THE MINERAL KINGDOM—God's 3rd Cycle of Expression
(4) THE VEGETABLE KINGDOM—God's 4th Cycle of Expression
(5) THE ANIMAL KINGDOM—God's 5th Cycle of Expression
(6) THE HUMAN KINGDOM—God's 6th Cycle of Expression
(7) THE CELESTIAL KINGDOM—God's 7th Cycle of Expression
The first seven of the fifty little books deal with these kingdoms.

we see that things are never what they seem to be. Look up to the heavens, and you see many things—the sun by day, the moon and the stars by night. Then we look at the earth beneath our feet, and by comparison with its apparent enormity, the sun (which looks only about the size of a dinner plate) and the moon (appearing to be not much bigger than a bread plate), seem to be of much less importance than our earth; and, as for the great stars, they all appear to be merely insignificant bodies. The sun and the moon can even be hidden from our view by passing clouds, and the greatest of the stars at best seem mere twinkling points of light. Not only do these wonderful heavenly bodies appear to be relatively small, but men in all ages, almost down to our own, **have believed them to be small.** In the story of the creation in Genesis, after the earth had been created, "God made two great lights" in the sky above—the greater to rule the day and the lesser to rule the night.

Then it was added, as if by some afterthought, God made the stars also.

(g) Man and His Conception

But science has done much and will do very much more to show Man, in both the universe without as in the universe within, that things are not what they seem to be. Our earth, for example, is actually very small. Man looks out upon his home, this earth, and all things naturally take on a great importance for him, but we have only to think for a single moment to realize that this, to the uninitiated,

apparently limitless planet on which we dwell is merely like a particle of dust floating in the immensity of space, while our sun is a flaming mass of gas a million times greater in volume than the earth. More astounding still, those tiny twinkling stars that we look at are in reality other suns, many greater than our own sun, whose glories are dimmed only by their enormous distances. Our Milky Way is a vast cosmic system of no less than twenty thousand million stars. And upon a very large number of them, so large are they, hundreds of thousands of our earth could be placed, with still room to space, while here and there we come across stars so large that millions of millions of earths could be accommodated.

Staggering facts—but they are facts.

These facts should tend to remind you, as a thinker, of the grandeur of the Cosmos, the grandeur of God's works, and, more particularly, of the ORDER of this universe of which you are a part.

I have already remarked that the final cause is the end for which everything exists. The Absolute—God—is the final cause; and all things exist in God and because of God. **Man ascends from things** to ideas. God **descends from ideas** to things. As every thinking person will agree upon this, we can see, figuratively speaking, that in what we may call the "great beginning," there was with God an enveloping condition or 'substance, which was the basic sphere of all existence. In **Mentalphysics** we call it **The Ethereal Kingdom.** It is the great enveloper, often known as the Astral, whose light is called in the Sanskrit

Akasha (or ether). Ether, as you know, is the highest kind of matter. Ether differs from all gross matter in not being subject to generation or corruption. **Akasha** (pronounced Ah-Kah'shuh) is the subtle ether, whence "the WORD" we have read about exists. **Akasha** is within and without every action, it causes all action, and causes all atoms to become.

(h) The Home of Universal Silence

The ETHEREAL Kingdom, then, may be called the home of Universal Silence.

—It is the womb of all creation; of all life expression.

—It is composed of the **essence** of all matter.

—It is the kingdom or state or condition in which all existences come to have their being.

—As it is the kingdom of Silence, in the Ethereal Kingdom there is no blundering; its Voice of the Silence is the whisper of God (the WORD); the temple of our purest thoughts is Silence.

The ORDER of the Cosmos, which means the order of your life, is contained in **The Ethereal Kingdom**—in God's Silence. All existences are united in the Cosmos in absolute order. The words that I am using (not because they are my words) contain a great depth of wisdom. That last sentence: **"All existences are united in the Cosmos in absolute order!"** Think! The Cosmos contains within itself seven Kingdoms, "commencing" with the Ethereal and "ending" with the CELESTIAL. The form or nature of the Ethereal Kingdom is unchanging, eternal potentiality.

Think of the amazing potentiality of Life Itself! The potentiality of the Ethereal Kingdom never changes; its substance is everywhere, at one and all places at the same time. Just as every living thing has spiritual existence in the Intelligence at the height of all created beings, so every living thing has its material existence in the Ethereal Kingdom, the **Akasha** upon which the whole macrocosm rests.

But it is perhaps much more easy to comprehend intelligibly God's great universe as we consider the works of God in the "without," yet all the principles we can discover in the **"without"** are **similarly discoverable in the "within."** Man is equally amazed at his discoveries of God's laws within himself as he is as he contemplates, for example, the heavens and all their wonders. **Every scientist, however—and we are all scientists—will readily admit that, though science has placed him on an eminence from which he can see very far, beyond his horizon there always lies a great and challenging unknown.**

In the consideration of **The Ethereal Kingdom,** we are at once led to the unchallengeable ORDER of the universe. In its order alone we find its secrets. As we shall go along together in these 50 little books, I trust that you may be able to enlighten yourself as you proceed from one kingdom to the next highest, and to the varied unfolding phases of God's Life in Man and Man's Life in God. But without the basic belief—don't let me hurt your susceptibilities—that **Man is God in Human Form** . . . irrevocably, categorically, unchallengably . . . you will not be able to proceed very satisfactorily. This is the basic tenet **of**

Mentalphysics, and becomes increasingly true and full of wonder to all students, yet it is not generally understood. This alone is the purpose of our teaching, of all teaching—to show Man that he is Divine, that he is a part of the effulgence of God's being, **That He Is God in Human Form.**

I must assume that you are a very sincere person, and desire to learn. You are **willing to learn!** Had you sufficient patience and wisdom and love, you could take a single grain of sand and, when you came to the point that you could say, truthfully, that you completely and fully understood that grain of sand, you then would have nothing more to learn. You would have learned all that there is to learn.

Now, I have referred to the fact that **The Ethereal Kingdom** is the symbol of God's Silence; indeed it is the Kingdom of Silence. It is, if you will allow the expression, the Kingdom of the Great Beginning. Just as the average person in Churchianity has been taught to believe in the final end, which he calls Heaven, so we can see, at the opposite pole, metaphorically the "Great Beginning." The Ethereal Kingdom is That from which all things proceed. The manner or the method by which they do so, or the one great force of the Spirit of Life which propels them, we will not speak of. But it is easy for us to see, or to imagine, one great eternal sphere. Within the sphere all is absolute stillness. You may get your idea of stillness in any way that you wish. You may feel within you the vibration of Love—all-enveloping, complete, final, everywhere present . . . by that idea, you may get your idea of **The**

Ethereal Kingdom. You may, if you wish, imagine everything that you know in the outer universe—in the heavens, on the earth, below the sea, no matter what your consciousness may be, and you can similarly apply that to the potentiality of the Ethereal Kingdom. **All things have proceeded, do proceed, will proceed, because they must proceed, from The Ethereal Kingdom.**

(i) What You Seek Is Within You!

Now, in this Ethereal Kingdom all is complete. There is not one pinpoint of vacuum or vacuity, or space. The substance of the Ethereal Kingdom is so fine, so subtle, that it is, so to speak, eternally packed together that there is not one possibility of any space between to cause channels in the substance. It is complete. It is so complete, so full, that wherever what you might call a vibration takes place, which causes Life to proceed, that vibration is within the substance of The Ethereal Kingdom. Within the substance!

An illustration: you feel something, you feel happy, you feel light, you feel love, you feel—**how** do you feel? You look upon something, and it seems that that something that you look upon **engenders the feeling that you have.** But the feeling is within **you!** And it is conceivable that you could feel so much that you literally could give your life, the very thread of the Spirit would break, so full do you become of the **feeling** that you have. Apply that to your idea of **The Ethereal Kingdom.**

Out of its great Silence all things proceed. Now, **how**

do they proceed? As you read, ask yourself "What am I? Where did I come from?—Whither do I go? Why am I what I am?" You look out in imagination upon the great concourse of the human family, the human race; there are not two human beings identical. Love seems to make us feel that we **are** identical, but love plays a very small part in the lives of most of us, though we are on our way. We are what we are, because in the "Great Beginning" we came forth! Now, if you go into your garden and you turn up a stone, you find some form of Life; that low form of Life is very different from the life that you understand to be your own. The consciousness, the thinking power (not process) of that thing that you find under the stone in your garden seems to be very different from the extremely accurate and subtle and beautiful and lively thought of your own mind. The thought, however, is the same. It is merely a matter of degree of vibration. And so in the long dim past, you and I, not as definite entities as human beings (we had to earn that right!), but what you and I began with emerged from out the Ethereal Kingdom. And we were clad in all its glorious order. We had all, as we still have, **all that is necessary to lead us through the whole of the kingdoms, from the Ethereal Kingdom to the Celestial Kingdom,** from the lowest to the highest.

And, my Beloved, the principles, the secrets, the substance, the nature, the potentiality of the Ethereal Kingdom is within thee now, within me now!

All that we have passed through, the Ethereal Kingdom, the Sidereal Kingdom, the Mineral Kingdom, the Vegetable Kingdom, the Animal Kingdom, the Human Kingdom—**All** is **within** us **now!**

Can you see that ALL THAT THERE IS is WHAT WE ARE . . . we are ALL THAT THERE IS?

The Ethereal Kingdom is the great enveloping quality of God's being—silent, still, unspeakably fine and subtle, immaterial as God is immaterial. Out of its immateriality all things proceed. And **you** can visualize the Ethereal Kingdom within your mind—its silence, its immutability, its immovableness, its literal inability to any movingness. As we visualize this absolute glory of the Silence, do we find the cause of and the essence of our own being, our own consciousness resting.

We all know that we are human beings, but at certain moments of great inspiration we feel that we are even greater than we are. We feel that whilst we look around about us, and we say that we live on the earth, we also are able to feel by this Divine but rare intuition that comes to us, that we live in a place, or in a state or of a nature greater and higher than the earth. Men call it **Heaven!** So we can see that as our consciousness expands, we take from **all the Kingdoms,** and we are the aggregate of all that has ever been. The IS-ness of Life is the product of the yesterdays. And the tomorrows we are building now, and they will be the reflection of what our today is.

(j) You Are of the Essential Substance

Contemplate how utterly infinitesimal the earth is in relation to the great Cosmos. We can see that if the earth be as it is, just like a tiny speck of dust in an interminable infinity of space, then what am I, a mere human being—one of a very vast number of human beings on this planet? But, my Beloved, **the glory of Life is that** we **are not human beings!** We are divine, we are of the Essential Substance—first, of the Ethereal Kingdom; and then we pass from out the Ethereal Kingdom. The Higher Ones—the Angels of Wisdom—who have gone upon their journey and have successfully trodden the Path are eternally around us, and within us, upholding us, bulwarking us against flaws and faults that we might make to rob ourselves even more than we do of the sovereignty that comes from the essential substance of Life in the Ethereal Kingdom. And then we see as we go on that, having emerged from the Ethereal Kingdom, blessed and bulwarked by all the beauty of the true indivisible substance of that Kingdom, we enter into the fiat, the command of God, **"Let there Be Light!"** . . . as we emerge into the Sidereal Kingdom, the Kingdom of Light (which is dealt with in the second of these fifty little books).

Anyone who has thought for a moment sees how very, very little light it takes to disperse and dispel great darkness. Even if the darkness of the human mind has extended for a thousand years, one brilliant, flashing moment of intuition can dispel it. What words I use. What is

intuition? Do you not see that intuition is that unbreakable thread that leads us back and back and back, and establishes us, as by an anchor, holding us right through all the Kingdoms until we come to what we are today in the Human Kingdom. And I say that, as Sons of Light, we are able to look back, and we are able to look forward.

Let us measure our nature, our power, our being, not by the despair and doubt and sorrow and darkness of our minds, but by love, by inspiration, by light, by all that wondrous unimaginable and indefinable "Something" that cannot be downed within our Spirit.

(k) All Is Transition—Evolution

Time was, when we were all that we can see in the subhuman kingdoms, but today we are members of the Human Kingdom, made, as I hope we can see clearly, in **The Image.** What is the purpose, the purport, the **raison d'etre** of our living? As you look around the Human Kingdom today, is what you see the purport of a human being's life? Consult your own heart, as you are now doing, and you know as you consult your heart that the very highest in you gives the lie to what you see. Just as we look around in what we might call the outer universe, into what we might call the heavens, and see all the mystery **and the** magic and the wonder with which the heavens are full, so we must be patient as we look out upon this earth. All **is in a** state of transition, of evolution; and if you be better than your brother, and if, in looking into your brother's life you see negation or darkness, or aught that you would rather not see, where does that exist? It exists within thyself! It means that the very memory of the spirit of you is showing you, that not yet have you yourself "fried the seeds" of that particular kind of negation.

When once human beings everywhere come to that state, where they are able to look out upon All That Is in naught but reverence, and peace, and harmony, and goodwill, and true compassion, we shall see all the abundance and splendor and the beauty and the peace and all the unimaginable wonders of Truth that lie beneath our feet and within ourselves.

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