



The Rainbow Journal

No. 65 October 2013

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Journal of:

The Edgar Cayce Society of New Zealand

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www.edgarcaycenewzealand.com

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MORE ON LOVE

Love is a language spoken by everyone but understood only by the heart.

Over the years the Rainbow Journal has contained a number of articles on the subject of love. These were all written in an attempt to understand and explain what is meant by the word 'love' as used by Jesus when he said those famous words: *"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: Love your neighbour as yourself. All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."*¹

The earliest Journal article gave a number of definitions of love as we use the word today and most of these definitions have nothing to do with what Jesus was referring to. The word 'love' is often used to mean that one has a strong desire for something. It is also used as a verb the word in a sexual content when one will 'make love.' There is also romantic love which leads to marriage yet for nearly half married couples this love seems to disappear within a few years of the relationship.

One article dealt with the statement by Jesus that we should love our enemies. It was pointed out that this statement did not seem to make sense as how could we consider a person an enemy and at the same time love that person? The article suggested that perhaps the word *respect* could be used in this situation. This means that in the eyes of God we are all equal so we should respect our enemies knowing that they are our equals before God. Of course this is not easy to do and if we did see them as our equals chances are we would no longer consider them enemies.

Another article was based on the text of 'A Course in Miracles' in which it is stated that we respond to every

situation with either by attack or with love. Attack being a defence mechanism of the ego when it feels it is being threatened in any way whereas love comes from the heart with openness and goodwill.

An on-line dictionary gives only three broad definitions of love as a noun. These definitions are: 'A profoundly tender, passionate affection for another person, a feeling of warm personal attachment and a sexual passion or desire'. None of these definitions seem to go anywhere near to what we understand as the love Jesus was talking about. If we search the internet we will find literally hundreds of definitions of love, yet when we examine the definitions we will discover that they are only examples of love expressed or vague synonyms for the word 'love.' So why is it that there seems to be no single definition that can effectively describe this love?

When we turn to the Edgar Cayce readings we find that in some readings Cayce equated love with God Himself. The statement 'God is Love.' is made 16 times in the readings. But here again, in our search for the meaning of love, we are frustrated because God also seems to be beyond the confines of a definition – He is filled with mystery that our finite minds cannot grasp.

We need not, however, feel that we are alone in the inability to define love for if we turn to the opening chapter of 'A Course in Miracles', purportedly narrated by Jesus himself, where the author is giving the purpose of the Course, we find the statement *"The course does not aim at teaching the meaning of love, for that is beyond what can be taught."* So even Jesus will not put into words what is meant by 'love' as it is *beyond what can be taught.*

Experiments have shown that

¹ Matthew 22:37-40

when young people are deprived of love there will be very detrimental results. In her book *Born for Love: Why Empathy Is Essential - and Endangered*, Maia Szalavitz states "about one third of babies placed in the barest orphanages can actually die as a result . . . half of the rest - at least double the rate seen in the general population - will suffer from mental illness. Each month spent in an orphanage in early life reduces IQ and increases risk of behavioural and psychological problems" She goes on to explain why simply being in an orphanage can kill babies: "Basically, they die from lack of love." So, even though we can not explain love, we know the lack of it can kill.

We know that when there is a solid foundation of loving family relationships it creates children with self confidence able to face a tugging, stressful world outside their family circle. When people face death or terminal illnesses their chances of coping effectively is enhanced when surrounded by loving, supportive, caring family members and friends. By contrast, those who have grown up without a secure foundation of love may experience more aggression, hostility, less self-confidence and more emotional problems. For example, teenagers who run away from home are usually escaping a home without love, but filled with either or both physical and psychological abuse. Abused wives often

become fearful and untrusting as well as sometimes extremely bitter.

Edgar Cayce had much to say about love. He equated love with giving, truth, law and God. When asked "What is the law of love?" his reply was:

"Giving. As is given in this injunction, "Love Thy Neighbour as Thyself." As is given in the injunction, "Love the Lord Thy God with all Thine Heart, Thine Soul and Thine Body." In this, as in many, we see upon the physical or earth or material plane the manifestations of that law, without the law itself . . . That is the law of love. Giving in action, without the force felt, expressed, manifested, shown, desired or reward for that given. Not that the law of love does away with other laws, but makes the law of recompense, the law of faith, the law of divine, with the law of earth forces, if you please, of effect, not defective, but of effect.

"So we have Love is law, law is love. God is love. Love is God. In that we see the law manifested, not the law itself. . . Now, if we, as individuals, upon the earth plane, have all of the other elementary forces that make to the bettering of life, and have not love we are as nothing - nothing." 3744-4

Even if we cannot give a precise meaning of the love that is a law and God manifested we know when it is expressed and when it is absent. **BDA ΩΩΩΩ**

MORE ON IDEAS AND IDEALS

At the time of writing there is an economic shut-down taking place in the U.S. (which hopefully will be resolved by the time the Journal is distributed) caused mainly be a stand-off between the two major political parties there. What it seems to boil down to is a battle between two ideologies. The ideologies of the Republican right and the Democrat left.

A simple definition of political ideology is: "Ideas on how political

parties think the country should be run."

In New Zealand the National Party which is currently in power has set down its policies, which is another word for its ideas, under a catch phrase of "Building a brighter future." It follows this statement with a list of its policies (ideas) for the various sectors of government. On the other hand the main opposition Labour Party, in its manifesto, lists five party 'guiding principles' (ideals) which are

'freedom, equality, opportunity, solidarity and sustainability.' Chances are that if one would ask Labour Party supporters if they believed in building a brighter future for New Zealand they would answer 'yes' and ask National Party supporters if they believed in freedom, equality, solidarity for New Zealand citizens and a sustainable economy they would also answer 'yes'.

We may deduce from this that the ideals held by supporters of both parties are much the same. Author Herbert Puryear has defined an ideal, based on the principle advanced by Edgar Cayce, as: "An ideal is not a goal. It is a motivational standard by which to evaluate our goals and our reasons for pursuing those goals. The goal is what; the ideal is why! A spiritual ideal is not so much a goal toward which we move as it is the spirit in which we grow. It is a living and dynamic standard by which we quicken and measure our daily motivation."

When a question was put as to what are the Judeo-Christian ideals one writer answered: "All men and all women are equal under God, with inalienable rights. So people have many rights in this life and no matter what your social status is or your gender God will treat everyone the same." However when a Catholic or a Protestant is asked: "What are the ideals of your church?" chances are the answer would not be the Christian ideals *per-se* but a description of the particular beliefs of their church to differentiate itself from the other churches. This is exactly what people belonging to political parties do. They concentrate on the ideas that differentiate themselves from other political parties rather than on the ideals which are generally common to all of us.

Those of us who wish to follow the principles as set down in the Edgar Cayce readings are asked to: "*Study to show yourself approved unto God, taking the*

whole truth, and keeping yourself unspotted from the world. That's a very large field, but is covered in every phase of one's experience. Do not accept or take any one idea and think that is the whole, for every expression is a manifestation of the Creative Forces as are manifest, and have their part in the Whole. Then, as given, study to show yourself approved unto God; not unto any individual, not unto an idea, but unto an IDEAL. (5481-1)

We are told to be guided by our ideals rather than by any single idea. Unfortunately for the people of the U.S. the politicians who are currently holding the whole country at ransom, even though they may all have similar basic ideals, have forgotten them in their struggle to impose their particular ideas on others.

We can all learn a lesson from this current crisis in that we should always consider first our ideals. Our ideas may come from this, but ideas can vary and change and no single idea may be the correct one. If ideas are conflicting we must ask ourselves if our decisions and beliefs are motivated by our ideals or by other, sometimes subtle, motives. We must keep in mind that our ideals are things we aim to emulate or achieve, but unlike goals and targets the journey towards these ideals is a lifelong one and as they are standards of perfection or excellence. It is unlikely that we would achieve them for, as Carl Schuz stated, "Ideals are like stars: you will not succeed in touching them with your hands, but like the seafaring man on the desert of waters, you choose them as your guides, and following them you reach your destiny."

If we conscientiously stick to our ideals the way we conduct ourselves in every section of our live, including politics and religion, will reflect who we really are. *BDA ΩΩΩ*

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Recently I was referred to the Yahoo Answers website where questions are posted and anyone (after registration) can submit answers. I went to the 'Society & Culture > Religion & Spirituality' page to see what sort of questions were being asked. Most of those posting questions seem to be young teenagers and some of them seem to suffer from a combination of innocence, ignorance and misinformation. One finds questions such as "Why are Christian Conservatives always right?" and "When God brings us back on Earth from resurrection, will they all fit on Earth because I want my house to be the one I have now?"

For some reason many of the questioners seem to believe that atheists are necessarily bad and ignorant people with questions like "Atheists, why do you rely on stupid scientists like Einstein and Newton so much?" and "Why do atheists get involved in group and mob mentality?" One questioner asked if atheists had read the Bible. A response was: "Have you not seen any of the statistics. Atheists as a whole are more versed in the bible than are the average Christians. They out perform Christians on biblical tests time and time again. Many atheists have not only read the bible but actually understand it. But the real difference between an atheist and a Christian is the fact that when the atheist hears a stupid claim, he or she does the research to understand the claim where as the Christian simply accepts it as Gospel. I've not really found anything that Jesus said thought provoking. 'Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.' is not Biblical and occurs in every culture on the planet in some form. It is probably one of the wisest sayings human kind has managed to produce."

Another questioner asked: "Does God have a tail?" On first thought this seems to be an idiotic question but it is

based on certain premises and Bible text. The first is that man was made 'in the image of God'. The second is that we start off life in the embryo with the vestiges of a tail. And thirdly the questioner quoted the following from Exodus 3:20-23 concerning Moses' encounter with God: "*You cannot see my face, for man may not see me and live.*" Yahweh also said, "*Behold, there is a place by me, and you shall stand on the rock. It will happen, while my glory passes by, that I will put you in a cleft of the rock, and will cover you with my hand until I have passed by; then I will take away my hand, and you will see my back; but my face shall not be seen.*" The question then is what did Moses see when he saw the back of God? The problem of course is that many people take the text of the Bible literally, which accounts for much confusion and divisiveness within Christianity. As to how one would answer this question one commentator wrote ". . . *although Moses wanted to penetrate into the glory of God he had to accept his limitations and only see the back of God, for God's glory is like looking into the face of the sun which can cause us to go blind. In the case of seeing God we would die.*"

Although many of the questions on this web page are trivial many others cause one to pause and think. There were a number of questions similar to this one: "Is Jesus God" and "It is said that Jesus is God and that Jesus is God's son. How can they be both?" If one does Google searches on this question one will find screeds of writings attempting to offer an explanation.

Sometimes, at first glance, questions people ask seem to be intelligent enquiries into understanding life and death. For example in an old episode of the TV show 'Two and a Half Men' Jake asked his uncle Charlie shortly after the uncle nearly drowned: "What happens when you die?" However the

motive behind the question became evident with the question that followed: "Who will get your car?"

Some questions are reasonably easy to answer while others can cause us to question whether or not we have a moral compass or whether we just rely on some authority to be our conscience. A question that was recently debated on a radio talk show was "Should one question what one is told to do by those in authority?" The questioner said that, as he was a Christian he relied on the Bible as his authority. The debate turned to a passage in the Bible relating to the Ten Commandments: "Whoever does any work on the Sabbath day must be put to death." (Exodus 31:15). The caller was asked if he should rely on the authority of the Bible to decide whether to do as the Bible instructed and kill those who worked on the Sabbath or should he use his own moral compass to decide against

killing despite what was written in the Bible. There has of course been many debates over questions such as this and in the end one must make a personal decision on how he or she addresses these dilemmas.

We should, however, never stop questioning no matter how authoritative the source of information comes from. For it is only through questioning that we gain awareness and understanding.

As Albert Einstein said: *"The important thing is not to stop questioning. Curiosity has its own reason for existing. One cannot help but be in awe when he contemplates the mysteries of eternity, of life, of the marvellous structure of reality. It is enough if one tries merely to comprehend a little of this mystery every day. Never lose a holy curiosity."*
BDA ΩΩΩ

BEING A SKEPTIC

Recently I was watching a re-run of a Dr. Phil show in which a group of renowned psychics and a self-proclaimed skeptic were the special guests. The psychics included a numerologist, an intuitive, a medium and an energy reader - one who could see and interpret the colours of human auras. They delivered information for a panel of volunteers, some of which ended up in tears over what they said were accurate messages received from their departed loved ones. Then the skeptic accused the psychics of just being well experienced scam artists.

Wikipedia defines skepticism as: ". . . generally any questioning attitude towards knowledge, facts, or opinions/beliefs stated as facts, or doubt regarding claims that are taken for granted elsewhere."

Using this definition one can conclude that the proclaimed skeptic in the Dr. Phil show was in fact not a

skeptic at all because he had a mindset about psychics and no exhibitions by claimed psychics was going to change his mind. He was just as much a believer, who never questioned his beliefs, in the non-existence of psychic abilities as those that believed that they do exist.

Skepticism uses the application of reason together with known facts to evaluate all claims and requires compelling evidence before something is believable or unbelievable. One gathers data to formulate and test natural phenomena. With the use of this tool a claim becomes factual when it is confirmed to such an extent that it would be reasonable to offer a provisional agreement. Skepticism is therefore a process of applying reason and critical thinking to establish validity. It is the practice of finding supported conclusions, rather than the justification of preconceived beliefs. Just like

scientific findings, results of testing are provisionally held until proven to be false or subject to change.

The key word for a skeptic on beliefs is 'provisional'. A skeptic holds beliefs provisionally, rather than absolutely, accepting that new evidence and reason may be found to require a revision in beliefs. A skeptic will have beliefs like everyone else but keeps an open mind so that if evidence is strong enough to disprove what he believes he will accept the fact and reconsider his beliefs accordingly.

Skepticism in religion, for example, is not atheism. It is not even agnosticism. No genuine skeptic never doubts or denies or disbelieves any theory, any hypothesis, or any belief. In fact, this is the only obstacle to a clear understanding of skepticism: we think we already know what it is and we are wrong. To skeptics, this unfounded pretence to knowledge is itself an example of the greatest sin they know, which is variously called rashness, conceit, pride, dogmatism, presumption, and culpable ignorance.

To the Greeks "skepticism" meant inquiry, and a skeptic was an inquirer. The skeptics so named themselves because the essence of their position was not doubt or denial or disbelief, but continual inquiry. They did not believe in the reality of a god, for example, but neither did they deny it. Nor did they even say that nobody could ever know for certain one way or the other. Skeptics said instead, "I *personally* do not know *at the moment* but *I am trying* to find out."

One should not confuse skeptics with cynics. While skeptics may question acts which on the surface seem to be altruistic, a cynic is a person who believes that only selfishness motivates human actions and who disbelieves in or minimizes selfless act or disinterested points of view. A cynic criticises while the

true skeptic attempts to look below the surface and most of all is a seeker of the truth.

The reason why skeptics rarely are persuaded by scammers is that they use common sense and are very suspect of any unusually attractive claims by people trying to get money out of them. A few years ago there was a TV campaign here in New Zealand offering apartments for sale in the Gold Coast of Australia. Many of the apartments were already rented offering an extremely high rate of return on investment. As a skeptic my first thought when watching these ads was "If the returns are so great why aren't Australian investors snapping them up rather than promoters having to come to New Zealand to find investors?" Sure enough it turned out that the apartments were rented on short term at rentals far above market rates and when the rental agreements terminated new tenants were difficult to find. As a consequence many New Zealand investors lost their homes put up as collateral when they could no longer meet repayments. People who are not skeptical over deals like this that are 'too good to be true' are the ones who fall victims to such scams.

Some people who are generally skeptical over religions are drawn to Buddhism because it is not full of dogma and the necessity of believing in God. In fact it is considered by many a philosophy rather than a religion. The Buddha was very much a skeptical being who discovered enlightenment because of a healthy questioning of the accepted explanations of reality at the time. He dared question the great Brahman leaders of the day and was thus seen as a rebel of sorts. The Buddha encouraged thinking for oneself and not believing something if it doesn't ring true through one's own experiences.

Perhaps the best description of a skeptic was given by the Buddha himself: "Don't blindly believe what I say. Don't

believe me because others convince you of my words. Don't believe anything you see, read, or hear from others, whether of authority, religious teachers or texts. Don't rely on logic alone, nor speculation. Don't infer or be deceived by appearances. Do not give up your authority and follow blindly the will of

others. This way will lead to only delusion. Find out for yourself what is truth, what is real. Discover that there are virtuous things and there are non-virtuous things. Once you have discovered for yourself give up the bad and embrace the good." *BDA ΩΩΩ*

NOTES IN PASSING

THOUGHTS

The oft repeat statement in the Cayce readings that 'thoughts are things.' While we may accept the statement in principle we should realise that this applies to *all* of our thoughts. So we must constantly be on the guard not to let unwanted, negative thoughts control our minds. Our thoughts must be open enough that we are willing to share them. No thoughts should be private.

ANXIETY

Anxiety is usually caused by our ego's inability to accept what is as against what the ego considers what should be. e.g. We can get annoyed and anxious because we are caught up in a traffic jam. We believe it should not happen - it is others fault. So we fail to accept what is.

ETHICS AND RELIGION

Ethics distinguishes itself from religion by seeking reason, rather than authority, to justify its principles. The central purpose of ethics is to secure valid principles of conduct and values that can be instrumental in guiding

human actions and producing good character. As such it is the most important activity known to humans, for it has to do with how we are to live. *Lois p. Poiman, philosopher.*

WHOSE BUSINESS?

There are three kinds of business in the universe - Mine, Yours and Gods. When we feel anxiety over events we should ask ourselves: "What business am I in?"

When there is war, earthquakes, floods, or why I will die, that is God's business.

When I think: "You need to get a job. You need to loose weight, You need to"

I am in your business.

Most of the time our own business will look after itself - it just needs guidance.

– *Byron Katie*

DON'T BLAME GOD

The question is not: "What kind of God would let children starve?" but rather, "What kind of people let children starve?" - *Marianne Williamson ΩΩΩ*

LAUGHTER THE BEST MEDICINE

A couple had two little boys, ages 8 and 10, who were excessively mischievous. The two were always getting into trouble and their parents could be assured that if any mischief occurred in their town their two young

sons were in some way involved.

The parents were at their wits end as to what to do about their sons' behaviour. The mother had heard that a clergyman in town had been successful in disciplining children in the past, so she

asked her husband if he thought they should send the boys to speak with the clergyman.

The husband said, 'We might as well. We need to do something before I really lose my temper!' The clergyman agreed to speak with the boys, but asked to see them individually. The 8 year old went to meet with him first. The clergyman sat the boy down and asked him sternly, 'Where is God?'

The boy made no response, so the clergyman repeated the question in an

even sterner tone, 'Where is God?' Again the boy made no attempt to answer. So the clergyman raised his voice even more and shook his finger in the boy's face, 'WHERE IS GOD?'

At that the boy bolted from the room and ran directly home, slamming himself in the closet. His older brother followed him into the closet and asked what had happened. The younger brother replied, 'We are in BIG trouble this time. God is missing and they think we did it.'

ΩΩΩ

CHRIST IN YOU

Part 1

Lesson Seven

GET UNDERSTANDING

The more we know of God, the greater becomes our reverence and humility. The infinite and eternal Wisdom has such exquisite order for every created being; the very stones and rocks are marvels of His goodness. Even the dewdrop obeys a law and fulfils the eternal purpose. As you evolve, you discern these higher laws and become in harmony with them. It is one of our most interesting studies to discover the wonderful and perfect laws of living in each plane. If you would see the great interior worlds, you would almost worship your fellow-beings. God has endowed you richly. You have made mistakes because you have not known yourselves. The mighty eternal love is seeking expression everywhere.

You ask: "What is the most practical method of healing the body?" Our great teacher Jesus Christ always met the need of the people at their exact degree of unfoldment. Thus, some would need the clay, or bathing; others the spoken word only. Jesus never failed to help in whatsoever condition or circumstance; that they came to Him was enough. This is where so many of your healers fail: either because they offer something beyond their power to realise or because they employ methods that

have become words devoid of life. The great healer, by reason of the greatness of His love, could meet every need. And only as you love can you really help. Love perceives as never man sees, suggesting with infinite variety the exact method. We are anxious that you should not spoil the great and beautiful work by following any known method, but always by following your own loving spiritual instinct, taking "no thought what ye shall say. It shall be given you in that hour." Love with all your heart, soul, mind and strength, and nothing is impossible to you. Jesus never failed to understand and recognise the perfect spiritual body in all men. Your body is perfect in spirit (substance), and every part of the material body should act in obedience to the spiritual, the only real.

When the sense would indicate pain and disorder, remember your spiritual body, and call it into the manifestation by the word of power. The body should manifest wholeness, or you are surely making God seem a failure. Later on, when your body functions only from the plane of spirit, its uses will be finer, its obedience immediate. The positive spiritual man will assert himself, refusing to recognise the suggestions of the sense man, and will become ruler.

Christ shall reign in you, and Satan will be under His feet. Fill the house every day with strong, positive health vibrations, lifting the very atmosphere into purity and truth. Growth into good is so simple, so natural, for God is working in your midst and cannot fail. ΩΩΩ

LOVE



OUR CLOSING THOUGHT

“What is it all about then? ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, your soul, your mind, your body, and your neighbour as yourself.’ The rest of all the theories that may be concocted by man are nothing, if these are just lived. Love your neighbour as yourself in the associations day by day, preferring as did the Christ who died on the cross rather than preferring the world be His without a struggle. Know, then, that as He had His cross, so have you. May you take it with a smile. You can, if you will let Him bear it with you. Do it!” 3976-29 ΩΩΩ

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