

Sun and Venus, over the counterfeit of the Spirit shadowed in the Moon and Mars. Happy is the soul who meets with the struggle and conquers anger, lust and greed. The struggle between the spiritual and the animal soul awaits every man and woman born into this world, which is the field or battleground for every soul. And wars amongst nations *are but reflections of the "war in heaven" between the soul in man on earth and his prototype or spiritual soul in heaven.*

Now what is the moral or lesson that we may learn from these lectures? First, that every personal ego partakes of the divine life. At the begin-

Lesson III. ning of his human career he has secured from the specialised animal state an animal, or emotional, "soul" which, through specialisation, became differentiated off from the animal essence and gave man his first claim to a *separate and distinct 'personal' soul*. This "soul" is a ray from the planetary sphere filled with the animal essences, of which MARS is the ruling planet or central physical body located in the heavens as the next planetary globe to our earth. This emotional soul, which makes of man a personal ego, is located in those organs of the brain known as the pituitary body and the pineal gland; it is the red ray of light, coloured by the angels or spirits who preside over animal-man.

We have seen how the animal in man is expressed

Youthful  
stage of  
Mars

during the youthful stage in assertiveness, combativeness, and the struggle for individuality. In this stage the man is too much occupied with the demonstration of himself as a personal ego to think of God, or of brotherhood, or to concern himself with questions regarding the divine process of evolution. Here the senses are paramount, and the mind is made the slave of the senses; but slowly the man learns through the follies of the senses and the suffering entailed by surrendering control to them, to bring them under control and to *rationalise* his emotions.

Its Coming-  
of-Age

Secondly we learn that this red ray of Mars travels through the nervous organisation of the body and stimulates the generative system, producing many and varied concrete activities, finally ending in man realising his own power as a separate personality. The red star culminates, and all the bright tintings of the red ray stream forth in brilliant hues, bringing man many possessions, until he finds that he may conquer the earth if he will only have courage enough. He tempers his steel and becomes great. He is tempted, and shown the whole world, which he may secure by crushing all who dare to stay his progress. His ambitions become abnormal; he may combat others skilfully, use his self-assertion to accumulate wealth and power, and reach a pinnacle of fame that makes him feared if not respected. His star

of the Emotional Soul has culminated; he cannot gain more than the earth, where physical and material possessions are concerned. He has matured. Then comes the struggle between the spiritual soul and the animal for possession of his human soul, his humanity. It is the critical stage in every matured life, and requires many experiences and lives to accomplish. It is the struggle between Might and Right, and more than that, the struggle of the individual self against God and his Angels.

Thirdly, and lastly, we learn that after all the emotional soul is as it were but a film of matter, which through many purifications becomes a pale rose pink colour of sweet affection, unadulterated by any tinge of the personal self. When the star of the personal ego has set there is no more personal self left, and the soul is ready to be filled with the love of God; and then may it truly say "I and my Father are One." Everything is yielded, there are no longer any possessions; nothing is really ours, for all belongs to God—the Creator, the Preserver, and the Destroyer.

Blessed is the soul who has seen that mystic vision of light and love, for in the yielding of everything physical and personal all is found in the grace of God.

The story is told to every Christian in whom the Christ has been born. It is the story of Adam, of Jesus,

Adam and of Christ. Adam purified becomes  
 —Jesus Jesus, and Jesus, the perfect man, yields  
 —Christ all to the spirit; and Christ, the highest  
 spiritual teacher of gods and men, uses the  
 body of Jesus for this Divine mission. A miracle truly,  
 but it is one constantly portrayed in the heavens.

The Virgin Mary is the perfectly pure matter  
 of the soul, and she brings forth the infant Christ.  
 The influence of the red ray of Mars can never become  
 anything more than the emotional soul, and not until the  
 soul is purified from all the dross of self can it become  
 the receptacle for the spirit. The story is told in a  
 hundred ways, but it has ever the same meaning. MARS  
 is the wrath of God, VENUS the grace of God; and  
 Mars must set before Venus can rise.

The struggle now disturbing the whole world is the  
 working of the spirits of the air, the fire, the water, and  
 the earth, and over all preside the mighty  
 The Battle lords of the universe, who rule and  
 of the govern the destinies of human beings as  
 Elements individuals and as nations. Nations are  
 struggling now for possessions, for power and for the  
 satisfying of ambition, as well as for rights and  
 principles. Religion is on trial throughout the world,  
 and it has been said with authority that God's Spirit will  
 not always strive with man.

We are now witnessing the striving, and we may  
 learn much from it if we will. Astrology teaches us

What Astrology is how to observe every step of the way, from the animal to the divine; and that is why it is a study for the occultist alone.

Those who fail to see in its teachings the evolution of the human soul are simply using planetary positions as counters, and horoscopes as cribbage-boards. Astrology has a glorious future before it, since it is destined to help in man's search for God; for instead of simply believing on authority that which he cannot either understand or investigate, he will, through the stars, find faith confirmed by knowledge and intuition supported by reason. For beyond question Astrology is Practical Occultism,—and by its teaching we may define the spiral stairway leading to the Throne of God.

Before concluding, there is one suggestion we may make concerning the various religions of the world.

Planetary Religions Following our belief that each Planetary Sphere has a spiritual, as well as a psychic and material influence, it is quite reasonable to suppose that there is a definite form of religion connected with each sphere, at the head of which is found a human representative; thus we have the Lord Buddha presiding over the Buddhist religion, Krishna over the Hindu religion, Mahomed over Mahomedans, Zoroaster over what are now known as the Parsees, and Jesus at the head of the Christian faith.

Those of us who are followers of the Christian

religion may trace the whole system of the Christian belief to the planetary sphere of Mars, and Christianity: without bias or prejudice may follow the —MARS fighting history of the Christians from its early days nearly two thousand years ago. No religion in the world has been more *active*, more *assertive*, or more *individual*. It is the SALVATION OF THE INDIVIDUAL that is sought after, and personal survival is made dependent upon "conversion" or a change of heart. The Christian religion more than any other is constantly talking about the salvation of the sinner, and rejoices more in the recovery of the one lost sheep than in all the others safely in the fold. It is the Emotional Soul that has to be saved from the weary round of successive rebirths; therefore the question of reincarnation, of few or many physical births, does not count with the Christian, since it is the *rebirth of the emotional soul itself* which concerns him. A man in order to be saved is not to be constantly born from his mother's womb; he must be born again of the spirit, and though his sins be as scarlet he must be washed until his soul is whiter than snow.

Mars is essentially the prevailing influence in the Christian religion. In the Old Testament we read of the old adam, the unregenerate Mars man, and in the New Testament we read of the regenerate or reborn adam, Mars purified of all passions and the lower self,

The Old  
Adam and  
the New

and made whole by salvation from the animal part of his nature.

The Salvation Army, a most useful branch of the Christian religion,—concerning which a Master is said to have declared on one occasion that it was (at that time) the only movement which had accomplished any *spiritual* work in the world, worth talking about,—seems to prove its relation to the planet Mars by its “blood and fire” teachings, and the insistence upon the salvation of the most wicked men and women. None are too vile or degraded for salvation, and the penitence form is a strange revelation of the influence of emotion over the emotional soul of those who repent.

We can see in the Roman Catholic Church, and even in some phases of the Church of England, the peculiar martial intolerance as regards religious liberty; for the Christian is slow to realise that other religions may equally display God’s method of drawing all souls unto Him, by differing means peculiarly suited to each race and temperament. CHRIST is a Universal Principle, and The Christ, Whose second coming all true Christians expect, is the One Great Teacher of Gods and men, a ray of Whose Light and Life may penetrate the heart of every man who is pure enough to receive it, no matter what form his religious observances may take.

We are all crucified upon the cross of matter, and

until we can lift the cross from the dense plane of material existence, we are nailed to it and bound hard and fast by our desires and animal passions. The Hindu sees in Christ, under the name of Krishna, the ideal of Love. The Buddhist sees Christ, under the name of Buddha as the Just Man, who obeys the laws of God. The Mahomedan sees Allah, or the spirit of Christ, in the Prophet; and the Christian sees in Jesus the Christ and Saviour. There is a material or concrete religion for the unlearned and ignorant, and a living mystical religion for the enlightened, but in all the Spirit of the Christ must be born in the heart—the spirit of love and unity, of understanding and compassion.

We must all learn eventually to love our neighbour as ourself; and this, not because he is our neighbour, but because he is ourself.

" I stood upon the ocean's shore,  
And viewed the silent deep ;  
While 'neath the brightly beaming stars  
All Nature lay asleep.

As lone I paced that pebbly strand,  
And thought of those above,  
An Angel seemed to whisper me :  
' There's nothing true but Love.' "

## SUMMARY

LOVE and hate are the two greatest attractions on earth. They are two poles of spirit, the attractions and repulsions in every human being. Love tends to beauty, hate to ugliness; love to bravery, hate to fear. Love forgives and heals, but hate seeks to destroy, and in the end destroys the hater.

On the continent of Europe we are now witnessing a great drama in which Hatred the Destroyer is playing the leading part. Nation is striving against nation, and the world is depressed under the dark clouds of hatred and bitterness. The "Hymn of Hate" has been loudly sung by a nation whose religion is based on the doctrine that Might is Right, and whose children are fated to follow the war-drum. But another nation whose children have been taught that the Pen is mightier than the Sword, rises and calls upon her *latent* strength, her sons respond and go forth to protect the weak, the tide of hate is stemmed and turned by countless deeds of heroism and sacrifice.

We are witnessing strange events. Side by side with violence and the passion for destruction, moving the instruments of hate, we see a Band of  
 Strange Events Mercy encircling the wounded and healing the sick. The soldier and the nurse, the doctor and the chaplain are all at work in the field of struggle, each playing his part according to his vocation.

Deep are the mysteries of the elements in man and nature! Who is there that understands them? Who shall solve the problems of life and death?  
 The Great Secret Love is the secret of life, and hatred the secret of death.

In the heaven around us, there is a wonderful handwriting indelibly written in the skies, that he who runs may read. From this handwriting on the  
 The Hand-writing on the Wall walls of heaven all the sacred books of the world have been written. The Bible itself, as already stated, is a Star Book, relating the history of Adam, or animal-man, before and after his redemption. The first half deals with the natural law or Law of Strife, the latter with the divine law or Law of Love, which transcends the natural law. The Bible tells the story of the animal-soul of will, desire and passion, ending in the story of its redemption, where we learn that "except a man be born again he cannot enter the kingdom of God."

We live in a Universe with the Supreme Intelligence at its centre, and permeating the whole; Who is its

The  
Centre— Creator, Preserver, and Destroyer or regenerator. Around this centre there are vast spheres of influence, of which the planets are the physical centres, moving in circles around the Sun, the outward glory of the creator of the Solar system. Astrology is but the geology of heaven.

The Archangels who preside over the planetary spheres are the Creative Principles, having dominion over all things manifest in Nature. In  
—and the  
Circum- the foregoing pages we have discoursed  
ference upon one only of these influences; the sphere of which the planet MARS is the centre.

This planetary influence is concerned with man's soul in its *emotional* stages, and is taken to represent the Old Adam or the Animal Man before his  
No Com- redemption from 'sin,' which is ignorance;  
pulsion and we have sought to portray the evolution of the animal-soul through the vices of Anger, Lust and Greed, to the virtues of Heroism, Love and Sacrifice. Note well that the influence of the planet Mars causes neither vice nor virtue, it is simply a vibratory force which contains within it energising and stimulating powers, and it is only man's abuse of this influence which causes Vice, whereas its right use leads to Virtue.

There is no compelling force in the universe. The stars incline they do not compel.