

SPIRIT in ACTION

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The Law of Being

By John W. Brewer

—Rev. John Brewer was a minister at the First Divine Science Church of Denver, Colorado in the early 1980s.



In metaphysics some understanding of the Law of Being is fundamental. The Law of Being is the Nature of God's Beingness, one divine Life-activity. As one becomes more and more aware of the Law of Being, one establishes a solid groundwork from which to build spiritually. This Law of Being applies not only to each individual but to all mankind.

We are going through a time of change. We are moving from one age to another, from an age of materiality into an age of spirituality. Many believe, perhaps sometimes unconsciously, that in the New Age they are going to have to sacrifice some things that they need and enjoy for something that is as yet unknown. However, they have but to look around to see the unsatisfactory aspects of the materialistic age which is passing. For centuries the materialistic way of thought, yours and mine, has resulted in chaos. Perhaps we have learned our lesson by now, at least to some degree, for the New Age is

beginning to be felt, and we will be seeing the fruits of this New Age manifesting before us as an ever changing expression of the Self.

We are moving out, taking a journey into the awareness of the true Self of man. Those who have already begun the journey tell us that the new discoveries are amazing and thrilling. This is not surprising, for truly we are made in the image and likeness of God and the potentialities waiting to unfold are beyond the imagination of man. The message is not new. It has been here for a long time. Now, however, we are ready to accept it, to move into it and live by it, and to experience the transforming power of Universal Life.

A necessary part of this change is a breaking away from the old concept of God. Most people have been given the idea that the receiving of God's benefits is dependent only upon obedience to the Ten Commandments, or taking communion, or fasting, etc. They have felt that they please God by doing these things.

It has been a concept of God in which one believes that God is on his side, for he feels he is always on the right side. He prays to God to protect his country—whatever one it might be; to act in his behalf against his adversaries; to bless him as he smites his enemy—his brother! How could God take sides?

The statement of the Master Jesus, "I and my Father are one," must be ingrained in our hearts and minds as one Truth never to be forgotten. For as we

do forget it, as it slips out of our consciousness, we have a God separate and apart from our own being. We begin to understand something of the Law of Being when we understand not only that God is Life but also that God is each individual life. Unless we understand that, we will always be praying to get health, or supply, or harmony, whereas the life which is within us is of God and needs no healing. The life which is God is perfect and can never age or change.

All problems, all mistakes, all ills come from the ancient belief that there is God *and* man, that there is God, eternal Life, *and* our lives. We experience more and more of God's blessings the more we realize the *oneness* of God and man.

The only reason a person hits mental upsets is because of the race belief that man has a mind separate and apart from God. The Mind of God is indivisible and is a facet of the God-consciousness of each of us. Were we to understand that, we would continuously show forth the glory of infinite Intelligence in our thinking.

If we accept the world belief that there is a God somewhere "out there" to be reached, to be prayed to, or to become at-one with, we lose our awareness of the infinite nature of God *with us*.

Whatever there is of treatment and prayer in the study of Truth, foremost is the realization of the truth of the I-AM-ness: *I and the Father are one. I and the Father have been one "since before Abraham was." I and the Father will be one for all eternity. I and the Father are one, now, always, and throughout all time.* To forget that would be to lose the entire sense of spiritual at-one-ment, because it would leave one in a state of having to achieve that oneness or attain it, whereas, it is the Truth now.

Many have difficulty in resolving the issue of evil and the devil. Evil is the result of man's erroneous thinking. Evil is simply the frustration of good, the interrupting of the natural and fulfilling flow of Universal Life, the Beingness of God in and through us. The idea of the devil as a personality has grown out of man's dependency on rationalizing things and conditions in his environment by giving them names and personalities. Giving the devil such a dominant role is really making God seem inferior.

The ancient Hebrews saw God as One Presence and One Power, the Source from which all emanated. It was God who sent the good and God who sent the evil, or the punishment. There are still great numbers of individuals who believe that God sends illness and tragedy to test us. That a God of Love would do such a thing to His creation is unbelievable.

The Law of Being deals with the very Beingness of God—one Presence and one Power. We must give up fear and superstition and come to Principle. Now for Principle to be Principle at all, it can only be one. There is only God expressing as individual you and as individual me. We live and move and have our being in God, who is Universal Being. As Meister Eckhart, a Catholic priest of the 14th Century, wrote, "God expects but one thing of you and that is that you should come out of yourself insofar as you are a created being and let God be God in you."

God is the substance of which this universe is formed. God is Consciousness. God made this world out of Consciousness, of which your and my individual consciousnesses are a part—for there is only one. Our consciousness is the substance, the law, and the activity of our universe. The consciousness of you is the substance, the law, the cause, and the activity of your world—that is, your experience.

Your world is an expression of your consciousness. If you believe that you have a human consciousness and a human mind, made up of your ancestral beliefs, your home environment, your education or lack of it, then your world becomes a world of finiteness, lack, limitation, disease, and error. If you understand that God is your consciousness, your World is a spiritual world, harmonious, perfect, complete.

Let us understand that, in truth, looking at it from the highest level, there is no error in your consciousness. There is not a trace of sin, disease, or lack in your consciousness, because God is the only Consciousness there is. The only consciousness that man has is God and Mind is its instrument; therefore, the only expression that can come forth from it is infinite good.

Now some will say, "But look at this world of lack and limitation." Yes, look at it and you will see the fruitage of the belief that you have a separate mind, will, and consciousness of your own.

Scientific studies today are showing that there is a common factor in the universe, a unity, a oneness. We are proving scientifically today what those spiritually enlightened ones, down through the ages, learned through prayer and meditation.

Again, prayer and meditation are not for the purpose of impressing some God somewhere. Where is God? The kingdom of God is within you. The purpose of meditation and prayer is for communion with the Spirit within you. It is a time, or process, necessary for the changing of one's thought. It allows for the cooling of thoughts of negation, of fear, of doubt, and renews the perception of the Ever-presence of God.

We speak of the Christ Consciousness—that is, the knowledge and awareness that Life is God. We

need to allow the Law of Being to operate in our soul, mind, and body. We must know that we are supported and sustained from within in health, beauty, harmony, prosperity, and all success—by the Life of God and the Law of Being.

Although we are individual, the one Life sustains us as we know and believe in it. In our individual experiences, the thought or attitude is the seed. One may have the most beautiful soil in the world for a garden, but the soil cannot produce a radish unless the seed is planted. The law works so unhesitatingly true to Principle that when we plant a radish seed, we expect and we get a radish. Likewise, we expect and experience according to the kind of thought-feeling seeds we plant.

Effectual prayer is keeping our thoughts stayed on God and letting the activity of God in our consciousness do everything necessary in the way of demonstrating or unfolding in our lives. Under the Law of Being, whatever is true of God is true of us in potential awareness and realization, because we are expressions of God.

Let us affirm: *There is one Life. This Life is God. This Life is creative. At this moment this Life is my life. God and I are one. The Mind of God is my mind; the Life of God is my life; the Soul of God is my soul; the Spirit of God is my spirit. The Christ is the true life of my being. That truth, entertained in my consciousness, becomes the Law of Being expressed in my life. This truth of oneness in my consciousness becomes the law of harmony unto my universe. As I dwell on the eternal verities of life, my direction is ever upward, onward, and Godward to the full realization of my divine potential in God. I thank God that this is so.*

The Diamond We All Possess

By Carley Dawson



— Rev. Carley Dawson served the Divine Science Church of the Healing Christ in Washington, D.C.

Many of us have seen pictures of a diamond "in the rough," as it is called, just as it comes out of the ground. It is a dull-looking pebble, no shine, no glow, no sparkle.

Polish this dreary piece of rock, and it begins to look more interesting, yet it is still unattractive.

But under the skilled hands of a diamond cutter the uninteresting pebble begins to change. First, one facet appears, and a flash of light shows deep from within what had been a lifeless stone. Little by

little, more and more facets appear, and it begins to sparkle, to shine like a tiny sun. It becomes very desirable and valuable.

Every one of us owns a spiritual diamond of great worth—Love. To create a thing of beauty from the rough diamond takes time, experience, patience, and skill; and without the skill and patience to polish Love's facets, to free it to reflect the light of Spirit, the Power of God, it will lie hidden within us and be of little interest to us or to others. But if we expose more and more facets of it to catch the Light at every moment, it will be as the poet wrote, "A thing of beauty ... a joy forever."

What are the facets of Love? They are many, but let us examine four important ones: understanding, lovingkindness, compassion, and patience.

Understanding

There is an Indian saying: "Do not judge a man until you have walked in his moccasins for two weeks." I believe it to be impossible to judge anyone, even if we "wore his moccasins" for months on end. For each individual is impressed by incidents and experiences uniquely his from the time of his birth. Although these happenings may have been harmless and straightforward in themselves, the individual may have misunderstood, or put on them a wrong connotation. He may have enfolded them tightly in a warped interpretation.

For me, metaphysics has been of inestimable value in understanding the truth of my own misinterpretations of life events. This understanding came late in my life, for it was many years before I learned of metaphysical teachings. Yet it is never too late, and once the understanding is there, the weight of negative thinking can roll away. One no longer finds himself carrying a heavy burden of unsolved questions, of traumatic experiences, of disturbing events of the past which had not been rightly understood.

Understanding others becomes simpler and easier when we understand ourselves, and when we become free of much that had burdened us over the years. We then understand that every one of us is on an individual path of growth. We can understand where and when a helping hand can be given in friendship and love, because we ourselves have needed that helping hand. We feel that, in giving that help to another, we are experiencing its value ourselves, for all at once we recognize that

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A Diamond We All Possess...Continued

that stranger whom we have helped is ourselves not so long ago. And because that one is ourselves, we do not add to his invisible burden by judging or criticizing. The weight of judgment would retard not only that other person's upward journey but our own.

Lovingkindness

Lovingkindness is represented in the statement, Do unto others as you would be done by. There is, I believe, in everyone of us, no matter what our present age may be, a bit of the small child yearning for comfort, for kindness, and feeling neglected, rejected, and forlorn without that aspect of Love.

I wonder how many of those reading this has reached the age when all at once they discover that their parent has become their child? When this time occurs, one can return the loving care one received when he was young. If, by some chance, it was not received, all the more reason to extend it anyway, knowing that in giving kindness and care we are receiving it, too. Thus, two people are profiting from this aspect of Love. A greater facet is being polished, a greater light is being returned in the giving and receiving of lovingkindness.

Compassion

The life experience brings hurting to us all. Compassion is the understanding of such hurts in another, the poultice and the balms that help and heal. The attitude, the vibration of compassion is perhaps the most powerful of all the facets of loving. Love itself enfolds those in need of it with warmth, encompassing them with lovingkindness and understanding. Compassion is a major facet, letting in the Light to our diamond of Love, which reflects the Light tenfold.

Patience

Patience is listening, among other things. How few today take the time to listen, to really pay attention to what another is trying to say, to listen *between* the words, trying to see *behind* the words. A poet friend of mine once said to me, "It isn't the lines and words alone that have value: the spaces have to be there." The Japanese also understand this, for in their flower arrangements they have taught us that spaces between the flowers hold as much importance in the design as the flowers themselves.

Patience is the fitting of our feeling into the different rhythm of another's life style. We all "march to a different drummer," and patience is needed to move more slowly or to pick up a faster beat in order to become one with another human being.

Just so do we polish our diamond of Love, until facet by facet we achieve something beyond price. We are able to refine our stone from a dull uninteresting pebble to something dazzlingly beautiful that reflects the Light for all to see. Truly, the fire of Love's diamond comes not from outside, but from deep within, and it is there all the time.

