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## A MESSAGE FOR THE AGES

Chapter: Infinite Way Pearls

1963 Instructions For Teaching The Infinite Way 1:2, 3:1

Topic: *God As Individual Consciousness*

509, 511

What is not generally understood is that the healing agency is the illumined consciousness of an individual, and the difference in the measure of healing lies not in God, but in the degree of illumination of the individual. To know the nature of Consciousness as omniscience is a step toward still further illumination. You become a state of complete awareness, a state of listening, and you can rest with nothing to tell God.

An illumined consciousness is the state of consciousness that does not hate, fear, or love error in any form. That is illumination: that is Christ-consciousness or spiritual consciousness.

Chapter: Infinite Way Protective Work

1963 Instructions For Teaching The Infinite Way 6:2

Topic: *Recognize All Negative Powers As Nonpower*

550

Illumination is the degree in which we realize that God's omnipotence, meaning the omnipotence of our consciousness, makes null any claim or belief, universal or individual, of a power apart from God.

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## A PARENTHESIS IN ETERNITY

Chapter: Living The Mystical Life

Topic: *Living In, Through, And By Spirit*

Even when we come to a place where we are convinced of this truth, this is not yet illumination. Illumination does not take place merely by reading words and agreeing they are beautiful, and hoping they are true.

Illumination is that moment of realization when we know that whereas before we were blind, now we see.

Illumination brings freedom from dependence on persons and things, and the only perfect human relationship there can ever be is one in which we do not look to anyone for anything. It is impossible to want anything from anybody and not have friction develop.

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## BEYOND WORDS AND THOUGHTS

Chapter: Measuring Spiritual Progress

1963 Kailua Private Class

Topic: *Watching What God Has Wrought*

518:1 or 517:2

[Communion with God] comes in moments of illumination, but for the greater part of my life I have found that it is as if there is still a Joel and he is pretty empty. . . He has no evil and he has no good: he is living always with those ears open in an expectancy, and then whatever comes through is God's presence and God's grace, and the rest, what the world calls a human personality, remains, you might almost say, a nothingness. It really is a nothingness because it has no desire: it does not want to be any place in particular; it does not want to do anything except what it is doing and what is being done through it; it has no hopes, no ambitions, and is not seeking to achieve anything.

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## CONSCIOUS UNION WITH GOD

Chapter: Seek The Answer Within

1947

Topic: *Illumined And Unillumined Consciousness*

Illumination does not improve the world but our concept of it.

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## CONSCIOUSNESS IN TRANSITION

Chapter: Illumined Consciousness

1948

Topic:

The mind that was in Christ Jesus, which is the universal, spiritual mind, is already an infinite, eternal mind or consciousness and it is always there and it never becomes illumined. But as you individually receive illumination, that which we call your ignorance is dispelled and that mind which was in Christ Jesus is now your very own mind.

Topic:

That is my word to you after years and years of practice. Do not take the name or identity or the picture or the thought of your patient into your treatment. Leave these completely outside. You have nothing to do with them. They are illusion to begin with and if you take them into the picture, you do not believe they are illusion but think they are something that you must do something about. It is true, perhaps, that because you have a patient you are fooled for a moment that there is a presence and power apart from God, and so you go within for the illumination, for the light that will dispel the illusion. Please leave the problem outside! It does not concern you, whether mental, physical, moral or financial. It has nothing to do with you. This treatment is your relationship to God, and so you go within for illumination, for the light that will dispel the illusion.

### CONSCIOUSNESS TRANSFORMED

Chapter: Into the Mystical Consciousness

1964

Topic:

Illumination consists of spiritual discernment that sees through the appearances and sees omnipresence, omniscience, omnipotence. . . [It] does not react to appearances but can rest and say, "What did hinder you?" or "Arise, take up thy bed." The difficult part is this: God is always God, but not separate and apart from my being, or your being, or his being, or her being.

Chapter: Into the new year

December 1963

Topic:

For the next fifteen minutes, we are going to look straight ahead into 1964 and let the spirit illumine it, not plan it, illumine it. Then as you keep up this program each day and certainly preferably early in the morning, you will find that whatever illumination comes to you through this experience will be revealed to you each day.

### GOD, THE SUBSTANCE OF ALL FORM

Chapter: Individual Unfoldment of Consciousness

1949

Topic: *Following The Spiritual Path*

God has brought you to this place of unfoldment and will not suffer you to stray from the path until you have received your illumination.

### LEAVE YOUR NETS

Chapter: Awake Thou That Sleepest

1953 Second Seattle Class

Topic: *Awake Thou That Sleepest*

35 4:1

Where, then, is your personal responsibility? It is to be normal, be natural; it is to live every day in accordance with the pattern that is placed before you in the morning. Keep in thought, insofar as is possible, that you must never judge either man or circumstance from the standpoint of its appearance. Stop looking at sick and sinful man and wondering how to make him well. Stop looking at the pictures that are painted in the newspapers, or on the radio and television, and stop wondering how you can improve them. You are not going to improve them: illumination is going to dissolve them, and the greatest part of that illumination is the realization that only God can do that.

### LIVING BY GRACE

Chapter: Freedom In God  
Topic: Spiritual Freedom

Those who receive spiritual illumination find that they no longer have problems of their own. First of all, illumination changes their desires and needs and simplifies them to the extent that they need so little of this world's good that never again do they have a problem of supply. What little they do require appears when necessary in miraculous ways. They have no economic problems for themselves or physical, mental, or moral problems. That one touch of illumination removes those persons from the world.

Chapter: Message to Teachers on the Spiritual Path  
Topic: Confidentiality of Teacher's Personal Message to an Individual Student

Do not believe for a moment that gaining this moment of illumination will free you *permanently* from your discords. First of all, the greatest temptations come after the illumination; and second, the penalty is much more severe when an offense is committed by someone who has received spiritual illumination, because much more is expected of those who have much. The smallest offense committed by those who have attained spiritual illumination can wreck their entire careers or destroy their health or minds.

Your real temptation will come after the first illumination, although you may think such temptations are already behind you. There are many forms of temptation: the temptation to make miracles in order to get supply, the temptation to glorify your ego, the temptation to show forth how spiritually powerful you are, and so on. Until you are faced with it, you will never know what a great temptation it is to use some human means to overcome some lack you may experience. You know very well that if you do resort to human means, your hand will fall off, because relying on human means is a form of looking back, and you may turn into a pillar of salt! . . . So let us not succumb to human temptation. Whatever form of temptation comes to you, recognize it for what it is and it will pass by.

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### LIVING THE ILLUMINED LIFE

Chapter: Spiritual Illumination  
Topic: *Across The Desk*

1962 Princess Kaiulani Closed Class  
483 4:2

As illumination brings a deeper awareness of the indwelling Christ, our hearts overflow with gratitude for God's great gift of grace. May the joy of that realization be yours this Christmas Day and may each day throughout the year be filled with Its peace.

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### LIVING THE INFINITE WAY

Chapter: God Is Omnipresent  
Topic:

1954

Finally there dawns in consciousness the tremendous experience of understanding that since the kingdom of God is within, and the King, God, is ever within His realm, direct impartation of wisdom, direction, law, and power *can come from within*. . . Consciousness then becomes a state of awareness, attuned to the inner kingdom—the deep withinness—and gradually the student becomes consciously aware of inner guidance, direction, and wisdom. This is the culmination of the first stage of meditation wherein the student receives assurance, confidence, healing, and illumination from within his own being whenever he meditates.

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### OUR SPIRITUAL RESOURCES

Chapter: The New Life By Grace  
Topic: *Be Willing To Receive God's Grace On God's Level*

1960

I suppose I could have had my spiritual illumination twelve years before I had it—but I was not ripe, and it took thirteen years of ripening before that first experience came, and many, many years more before later ripenings came.

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### SEEK YE FIRST

If it is any consolation to those who may be discouraged with the apparent slowness of their progress, they should understand that it is very unusual to feel any progress until one second after awakening. We cannot feel it coming on; we cannot know even one minute before that we are on our way to spiritual awakening. As a matter of fact, we may continue in sickness or in sin even while we are making the most remarkable spiritual progress, ready for our illumination, and yet with no evidence of that readiness, wondering when the moment does come, "How could it happen? Five minutes ago I was in deep sin, and this minute I am an angel."

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### SPIRITUAL DISCERNMENT

Chapter: Peeling Off the Onion Skins  
Topic: *The Spiritual Perception Of A Principle Is Necessary*

1955 Chicago Reading Room  
710 1:2

No one knows how close he is co- spiritual realization because it is true of every one of us that we are humanly opaque even the very minute before spiritual illumination comes.

Chapter: The Nature of Spiritual Discernment  
Topic: *Illumination Brings Spiritual Discernment*

1964 Honolulu Infinite Way Study Center  
540/4:1

Illumination is really the power of the spiritual discernment of an individual, and it is this that brings healing: not *a* God, not *the* God, not God. Only the developed or natural spiritual discernment of an individual performs the miracle.

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### SPIRITUAL POWER OF TRUTH

Chapter: Universal Hypnotism  
Topic:

Now this can never be repeated to you too often, because over and over that temptation can be there: "I must save this person's life. . . I must restore their sanity. . . I must bring about peace in their household." Actually, peace may be the worst thing to have in the household for their spiritual progress! So it is that we do not outline, we do not desire; neither do we judge, criticize, nor condemn. We turn completely from the human scene with its good side and its bad side and we pray for the revelation of Christ in our consciousness. When I use the word *Christ*, understand that I mean your spiritual Identity or God's spiritual Plan for you, or spiritual Illumination.

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### THE ART OF MEDITATION

Chapter: Meditation: The Experience  
Topic: *The Beauty Of Holiness*

1951-1956

Meditation is not an end in itself. That which we are seeking is a conscious realization of the presence of God, but in the realization of that Presence, before the experience of the full and complete illumination, there may be two of us—God and me. We do not want God *and me*: we want God *alone*. That is the final step on the spiritual Path.

Chapter: Meditation: The Fruits  
Topic: *Illumination, Communion, And Union*

1951-1956

Meditation leads to that illumination which becomes first, communion with God, and finally union.

Any temptation that a human being has ever had is multiplied many times as soon as he obtains even a degree of spiritual illumination. As he goes on to greater illumination, however, these temptations fall away one by one until only one temptation remains—egotism, the temptation to believe that "I" of my own self can do something or be something. That, too, must finally yield to the risen Christ.

When illumination comes, we no longer need anything found in the outer world. Everything and everyone become part of our being. Never again is it necessary to take thought, because now God lives our life.

Now the time has come when we should no longer depend upon talk or the illumination of some other person. We must have the experience, so that we can be in this world but not of it, walk up and down this world and yet not be a part of it, walk in and out of the discords and inharmonies, as well as the pleasures and harmonies of this world, and through it all maintain our spiritual integrity. We lose all sense of having to *do* something, or having to *know* something or having to *understand* something. . . Let us be beholders, watching God at work in His universe, recognizing a transcendental Being as It performs Its work through our consciousness.

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### THE FOUNDATION OF MYSTICISM

In all of the writings, you will notice passages that tell you the correct letter of truth. That is the metaphysics of the message. Then you find other passages which go from meditation to the actual experience of illumination. That is the mysticism of the message. Through this message, you can attain the mystical contact, or conscious union with God. Through this message you can learn and practice the laws of metaphysics which bring about harmony in human experience. One helps you to achieve the other: more especially, knowledge of the letter of truth and its practice will lead to the mystical experience whereas the mystical experience itself will not always lead to the correct letter or metaphysics of truth.

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### THE INFINITE WAY

Illumination changes our concept of the universe.

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### THE INFINITE WAY LETTERS 1959

To those ready for the experience, personal contact with the spiritually illumined will provide the greatest impetus to spiritual unfoldment and illumination.

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### THE THUNDER OF SILENCE

In the earliest stages of illumination, there is a sense of twoness. There is a John, Bill, or Mary who is aware of a Presence and a Power—Something overshadowing him, Something, helping, guiding, instructing, and governing him. It is within him and functions within and through him, but there is a higher state of consciousness, and that is when there is no person any more. There is just *I* voicing Itself. That is the Consciousness Itself, and It only comes in the very highest moments of our experience when the Presence is the only being that *I Am*.