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The Law of Laws

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Throughout the Edgar Cayce records there runs *one* central theme, *one* transcending idea, *one* ennobling principle. However subtle or direct, it is on almost every page of every text. It is the one thing the readings seem to be more concerned about, the one lesson they would have us learn. It is universal in scope - the Law above all Laws. It is the Law of Love.

The Law of Love, in the final analysis, is the criterion by which we must measure ourselves. It is the ultimate understanding we must gain and apply in our daily living if we are to make any spiritual progress. How much we know is not what matters so much - nor even our influence, our position or prestige. It matters not whether we are learned or ignorant, rich or poor, famous or obscure. Only he who practices the Law of Love is truly great inside. And therefore we can often walk with angels unawares!

Love is so big and so broad that it embraces the whole of mankind; and it means the same in any language, any race or creed. It is the mortar cementing together the Brotherhood of Man and the Fatherhood of God.

In Robert W. Huffman's new book, 'Many Wonderful Things,' the theme of love is reiterated over and over again by Irene Specht, the hypnotized housewife who speaks with authority from a cosmic plane "of rest" between

incarnations in the earth. In one stirring passage she says, "If man were capable of understanding this great power, this true power from God and which is God - how joyous the world! ... God-love is limitless, boundless, ever-increasing; and the more love we give forth, the more the miracle of love responds to us. Do not be afraid to love in all ways - expressing love in whatever you may do and see your talents, your capabilities increase a hundred-fold; and your gifts to others increasing also."

How may love be expressed and applied in everyday living? On this point the readings leave no doubt whatever. Edgar Cayce probably spent more time defining, explaining and expanding the topic of love than any other subject. That alone is indicative of its importance in our daily lives. This is the one lesson the readings insist upon and, alas, the most difficult one to practice. "Selfishness is the besetting sin of man," say the readings. "Tolerance, faith, patience these are the expressions making for happiness that all are crying for. Yet so few are willing to pay the price, which is tolerance, patience and selflessness expressed toward one's fellow man." 852-121

Difficult though it is - because our ego stands in the way - it is yet so very simple. "Be patient, be kind, be gentle in your ministerings day by day; for though there may come those periods when the

burden seems heavy and the light fades in the life, yet he who is faithful unto the end shall wear the crown. Keep the fires of love burning in your heart, for the love of God is manifested in the earth through those who are just kind one to another." 281-17

What precisely is Love? It is giving. Giving of self - not just materially of our surplus, for that is easy - giving of self until it hurts and then keep on giving (say the readings) until it stops hurting! That is no easy. To give mentally and physically can be even more difficult. It is deflating to the ego and the pride to rescind, retract, or admit we are wrong and our judgment was bad - that it's not important who is right but what is right. Yet what is greater than to give and serve - be needed? There is no greater honor. "He who would be greatest" said the Master, "must be the servant of all."

"The Law of Love," say the Edgar Cayce records, "is giving. As found in this injunction, 'Love your neighbor as your self.' As found in the injunction, 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart, your soul, your body' . . . And giving, or a gift with hope of reward or pay is in direct opposition to the Law of Love. Giving is action without desire of reward for that given, Not that the Law of Love does away with other laws; but it makes effective the Law of Recompense, the Law of Faiths - the Law of the Divine - in harmony with the Law of Earth Forces.

"So we have Love is Law, Law is Love; God is Love, Love is God. In this we see the Law manifested, not the Law itself. The individual who gains an understanding of himself becomes a part of this. If we individuals upon the earth plane have all the other elementary forces that make for bettering of life, yet do not have love, we

are as nothing - nothing!" (No. 3744)

The law of God, then, is simple but man has made it complex. It is so simple that even a child can understand it. The first commandment was and is: 'Know, O Israel, the Lord your God is One - thou shalt have no other gods before Me.' Upon this is founded all true religion in the world. This is the premise from which man works toward a better understanding and a more enlightened realization of the purpose and meaning of life. Although man has stumbled and strayed, the force, the power, the love of the One God will eventually lead him into the path of righteousness. Nothing else can eliminate from the face of the earth, the wars, strife, contention and bitterness which men have created through the opposite of love - hate, greed and envy.

The ancient Jews, for many centuries the keepers of the Law, split into sects over *interpretations* and *applications* of the law, not its basis. The Pharisees, a schism of self-righteous and hypocritical Jews, were sticklers for the letter of the law while ignoring the spirit of it. Man-made doctrines were piled one on top of another until the people were burdened and bewildered by the maze of creed and dogma. Fine hairs were split over the formalities, rituals, mechanics. For this their leaders were condemned by Jesus when He said, "This people draw close to me with their mouth and honor me with their lips; but their heart is far from me. But in vain they worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men." Matt. 15 :9

The learned of the Pharisees devoted so much of their time to quarrels about the technicalities of the law that they left undone the principles of it. For this they were further rebuked by Jesus: "Woe unto you scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you pay tithe

of mint, and anise, and cummin, and have omitted the weightier matters of the law; judgment, mercy and faith: these you ought to have done and not to leave the other undone, You blind Guides, which strain at a gnat, and swallow a camel." (Matt. 23:23)

Thus Jesus showed explicitly that formalities in religion do not matter so much as the principles, the spirit of religion. Man may place great value upon ritual and ceremony; God judges him by his deeds and by the life he lives. Religious names or labels, position or power mean nothing; what is in man's heart means everything.

"Man may have his contentions and divisions; he may fuss and fret over the letter of the law; but this does not change God's plan and purpose. Neither does it set one above another. Paul said, 'Every one of you says, I am of Paul; and I of Apollos; and I of Cephas; and I of Christ . . . I have planted, Apollo watered, but God gave the increase!' God calls on man everywhere to seek His way, through whatever channel may be blessed by the Spirit of the Master - in whatever form it may take." 364-9

Dr. Lewis L. Dunnington, a Methodist minister, has a point well taken when he says in his new book, *Power to Become*: "It is ... a shocking experience to reflect upon the fact that the ethical and moral teachings of Jesus that naturally follow loving one's neighbor were never written into a single one of the great creeds of Christendom . . . Real religion is not a belief about God; it is an experience of God."

During the decline of the Roman Empire, a man by the name of Faustus was accused of not being a Christian. He was a Manichean, a strict religious system composed of Gnostic Christian, Buddhists and Zoroastrian elements. To

Augustine himself, Faustus replied:

"Do I obey the Gospel? You ask me if I accept it, although it is apparent that I do, for I obey its commands. I should rather ask if you accept it, for I see in you no sign of your accepting it. I have left father, mother, wife, children and all else required by the Gospel. Perhaps you do not know what is called the Gospel. It is nothing else save the preaching and commands of Christ.

"I have parted with gold and silver, having ceased to carry money in my purse; content with daily bread, without care for the morrow, as to how I shall be fed or clothed. You see in me the beatitudes of Christ; and you ask, do I believe the Gospel?

"But you say to believe the Gospel is not only to do what it commands, but also to believe all that is written in it; and especially that God was born. But neither is believing the Gospel only to believe that Jesus was born, but also to obey His commandments. If therefore you say that I do not believe the Gospel because I pass over the Birth, much more do you not believe because you treat His commandments with contempt. If, as you say, belief in the Gospel includes faith in the genealogies and obedience to its precepts, why do you, an imperfect man, condemn me, another imperfect man?

"Let us suppose that you are right; that perfect faith consists of two parts; one consisting in word - of the confession that Christ was born; the other in deed - the observance of Christ's precepts. Mark that I have chosen the hard and painful part; you, that which is light and easy. Why then do you assail me for taking upon myself the more difficult part of deeds, leaving to you, as a weak brother, the easier task?

"Come, let us ask Christ Himself

and learn from His own mouth what is the chief means of salvation. Who shall enter Thy Kingdom, O Christ? *He that does the will of my Father in heaven.* That is His answer. Not he that confesses that I was born."

The Way, Truth, and Life

And herein may be found the clue to unity in religion. Not by the name one wears; not by what one professes to believe about this or that; but by what one practices in daily living. "Some may cry, 'Lo, this is the way; Lo, unless you do such and such, you have no part in Him'," say the Readings, "but *He said, He that loves me will keep my commandments.*"

What are the commandments? *You shall have no other Gods before me, [and] love your neighbor as your self,* Upon these two are built the whole law and gospel of every age that has believed in the One God. All the Bibles or sacred writings of the world pertain to these two commandments. How easily the great religions of the earth might unite on this one creed!

The essence of this whole law - the will of God - can be summed up in Love and its attributes: Faith, Hope, Charity, Patience, Kindliness, Forgiveness. These are the marks of man's real progress. Yet almost from the beginning, men has had other gods before him; other planets and images; animals and personages; power and fame; prestige, money, security, career, popularity - and just plain self. Whatever man puts first is his god. Whatever is most important to him, whatever he gives first consideration above all else: that is his god. Over the centuries he has had many gods and he has always fallen short of the first commandment, as well as the second which is like unto the first.

Thus man has failed his Maker almost from the very beginning. He has never obeyed the commandments of God, and that is his real purpose for Being - to make himself worthy of his Creator. Except for a loving, patient, merciful Father, he would have been lost now and from the beginning.

Know He is Mindful of Thee

In reading No. 2524-3, we have:

"In giving counsel, these are definite and immutable laws the entity should consider; not just in its daily life and dealings with others but in that which is to be met by self, knowing that the answer as to manner of application must come from within. For the law is: 'My spirit bears witness with your spirit as to whether you are the children of God or not.'

"The Master said, 'Who is my brother, my mother, my sister? He that does the will of the Father, the same is my mother, my brother, my sister. With what measure you mete, it is measured to you again. Know that the Lord your God is One

"What do these laws mean? They are not merely ideas or statements. They are immutable and eternal.

"These are the ways in which such truths become active and retroactive in the experience of an individual entity: In as much as you do it to the least of these, my brethren, you do it to me.'

"Then what is the will of the Father, here - now - under the varying circumstances you confront in the present? 'To do good, to eschew evil, to love mercy and Judgment,' says the prophet, 'is the whole duty of man.'

"And what says the Christ 'To love the Lord your God with all your heart, your mind, your body, and your neighbor as yourself.' This is the whole will of the Father to His children. The

rest of what is recorded in Holy Writ is merely the attempt to explain, to analyze, to justify that truth.

"What is His wills That ye love one another, *and act in that way and manner.*

"Know that as He has given - whatsoever place any soul occupies is by the grace and mercy of a loving Father. He has not willed that any soul should perish, but with every earthly temptation has prepared a way for the soul to meet the problem. Though you be afar off, if you call I will hear, and answer speedily, for as has been proclaimed, 'Though I take the wings of the morning and fly to the utmost parts of the earths You are there, O Lord! Though I enter into the thrones of mercy and grace and justice and peace, You are there.'

"Thus may the individual soul come to an awareness that *Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end* is a personal thing *it means you!* It means that He is mindful of you!

"How may you make this practical in your daily life in your business relationships - in social life in your manner of worship? All these are one; even as the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit are One; even as your body, your mind and your soul are one. Application of these truths is to be for *all* your body, *all* your mind, *all* your soul: to glorify Him among and with your fellow man!

"And answers are to be found within self for your body is indeed the temple of the living God. There He has promised to meet you in the Holy of Holies - your purpose and your will. Will you then bring about this oneness with His purpose? Let your prayer ever be: 'Lord, have your own way with me. Use me in the way and manner you see fit, O God, that I may be a greater channel of blessings to others, and glorify you here

and now! This attitude will bring you closer to knowledge and understanding yes, and to wisdom in applying what you know to be true.

"God does not ask that you apply what you do not know about. He desires that every soul seek, for 'seek and you shall find, knock and it will be opened to you.' Nor are these merely sayings, beautiful to hear but impractical in daily life. Have you not observed and found that these are in keeping with the law? Like begets like. What you sow you reap. The Lord is One, 'If you love me you will keep my commandments.'

"Then take that which you have in hand. Choose now your way, your course among your fellow men. Minimize the faults in others, as you would have them minimized in you. Forgive if you would be forgiven. Show mercy if you would have mercy shown. These words are simple to speak, yet so often difficult in application because we judge one another.

"But magnify the seeds of the Spirit in your life: love, long suffering, brotherly kindness, patience. These are the fruits - these are the seeds - of the Spirit. Sow them in the lives of others as you meet them day by day, for the fruit of these will bear judgment before the throne of Grace."

Love The Balancer

When Jesus brought the message of love, He expressed a commandment so profound and all-inclusive that men have failed to grasp the full significance of it. Study and meditation bring ever-widening enlightenment. He expressed more than a spiritual truth; but also a mental truth and an immutable concrete physical truth. For as reading No. 2524 expresses it: "All these are one; even as the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit are one; even as your body, your mind

and your soul are one."

The Edgar Cayce readings throw a great deal of light on the subject of psychosomatic medicine - the "modern" theory that many of our ills and ailments are caused by mental and emotional imbalances.

"There is as much amiss in the general attitude of the body as in the physical disturbances ... instead of snuffing, blow! Instead of resentments, love!" 288-44

"To be sure, attitudes often influence physical conditions of the body. No one can hate his neighbor and not have stomach or liver trouble. No one can be jealous or allow the anger from it, without having upset digestion or heart disorder." 4021-P-1

Is there any wonder that the readings put so much emphasis on love and its attributes? If hate, envy, anger and the like can cause destructive changes in the body; then also their opposites - love, unselfishness, cheerfulness - can cause constructive changes in the body! It is as necessary, then, to keep one's mental attitude right as it is to keep the body clean and nourished.

The readings often state that man's concept of God is reflected in the manner in which he treats his fellow man. Fame and fortune may pass away but what man does unselfishly for others does not pass away. Only what he gives to others and what he builds in their minds and hearts are his forever. What a man continually thinks and does, he becomes. Thoughts and deeds are never lost, for as a man thinks in his heart, so is he.

Thus we come to what is within: to love as the *Law of Laws*.

"Man should know in Whom he believes, who is the author of his wisdom and the keeper of his hopes.

These should be the first things he determines; then used rightly. If used for self-aggrandizement, self indulgence, it becomes as given by the Master. 'You shall come and say, Did we not in your name heal the sick? Did we not in your name cast out demons? And He will say, Depart from me, I never knew you.'

"Why is this? Because the motive the purpose is that self be exalted rather than humbleness of heart be manifested. For he that would be the greatest must be the servant of all." 1598-L-1

"How can you do His bidding? Not in mighty deeds of valor; not in exaltation of your knowledge or power but in the gentleness of things of the Spirit. Your Elder Brother, the Christ, has shown these to you so that you might apply them in your associations with your fellow man day by day - here a little, there a little. And you may become one with Him as He has destined that you should be!

"Will you separate yourself from Him? There is nothing in earth, in heaven or in hell that may separate you from the love of your God or your Brother, save yourself. Then be up and doing; knowing that those things which would exalt your personal self now met in your life, you must lose in gentleness, in patience. For in patience you become aware of your soul; your individuality becomes lost in Him; your personality becomes shining as only that which is motivated by the consciousness of your Lord and Master.

"Thus your destiny lies with yourself - and the destiny of the world." 1599-L

The constant struggle in man is thus his conquest of ego: pride, vanity, greed, anger, envy, self-righteousness. The great battle lies in overcoming self, for this is the only thing that separates us from our Maker. In the end, however

long it may take, Spirit must conquer Matter. Love for God and man is the only means for doing this – only love can make a better world, a world abounding with tolerance for those who are "different"; with patience for the shortcomings of others; with understanding and good will toward all men everywhere.

Then true peace will reign in all its glory upon the face of the earth.

"Do you believe? Then let your activities show what you would have, in spirit and in truth. Seek then, each in your own way and manner, to magnify what you as soul-beings would manifest of His love – in the way He will show you day by day. 5749



Extracts from the Readings

Q. What is the strongest argument against reincarnation?

A. That there is the law of cause and effect in material things. But the strongest argument against it also, turned about, is the strongest argument for it, as in the case of an principle reduced to its essence. For the law is set - and it happens! Though a soul may will itself never to reincarnate, it must burn and, burn and burn - or suffer and suffer and suffer! For heaven and hell are built by the soul ! 5753-1

A. Do minerals, vegetation and animals evolve into the supreme degree of man, or do they evolve into the supreme degrees of minerals vegetation and animals?

A. You have reincarnation. You have evolution. You have the mineral kingdom, the plant kingdom and the animal kingdom; each developing towards its own source. All belong to it and become one in that force, as it develops itself to become one with the creative Energy and one with God. Then the one Creator survives in the earth; through the mineral kingdom, the plant kingdom and through the animal kingdom. As geological survey shows, each held its sway in the earth and passes from one into the other. Yet man is given that which is necessary to be lord over all, and is the only survivor of that creation. 900-340

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