

transformed into the same image from glory to glory, even as from the Master Spirit." (2 Cor. iii : 18) "I have hallowed this house, which thou has built, (the mind-body) to put my name there for ever, and *mine eyes* and *mine heart* shall be there perpetually." "But if ye shall turn away from following me . . . this house, which I have hallowed for my name, will I cast out of my sight."



### DELIVERANCE THROUGH KNOWLEDGE.

It is a saying of the old Sages that the Universe exists for the sake of the Soul's experience. Some may have held the idea that ignorance is the mother of devotion, but all the great teachers of mankind have taught the importance of a right knowledge, and have declared ignorance to be the cause of every evil and sorrow that afflicts mankind.

In the Hebrew Scriptures the prophet lamenting over the miseries of his nation, says: "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge."

The Christian Scriptures set forth the same idea of the darkening of the mind by ignorance, and the dispelling of that darkness by the light of knowledge. Jesus is said to have mourned over Jerusalem, saying, "If thou hadst known the things that make for thy peace, but thou knewest not the day of thy visitation."

The Sages of other religions teach the same truth, for truth is one and indivisible. Patanjali says the cause of man's misery is ignorance. Man has permitted what he calls the conjuncture of the soul with the material universe to take place; his higher nature has fallen beneath the sway and dominance of the lower, and until this conjuncture ceases and man can isolate his spiritual nature from the material envelope he will ever be the victim of restlessness and desire. In him who knows the difference between the nature of soul and mind, the false notion regarding the soul comes to an end.

The Fourth Chapter of the Bhagavad Gita, the Hindoo Gospel, teaches the importance of Spiritual knowledge as a

means to devotion. It calls this knowledge exhaustless and eternal. To make this knowledge manifest has been the cause of all Divine Incarnation. Krishna says He incarnates from Age to Age for the preservation of the just and the establishing of righteousness. In Light on the Path the importance of obtaining knowledge is set forth. We are exhorted to the study of the present fleeting life, and to try to understand its constitution and meaning that we may be able to read the larger word of Life. In *The Voice of the Silence*, a book full of Soul truths, the Sage laments—"Alas, Alas, that all men should possess Alaya, be one with the Great Soul, and that possessing it, Alaya should so little avail them!" Ignorance is likened unto "a closed and airless vessel; the soul, a bird, shut up within. It warbles not, nor can it stir a feather, but the songster mute and torpid sits and of exhaustion dies." Our mind, by which we contact things of time and sense, is represented as a mirror. If we would allow Soul to master Mind, the mirror would be held still, so that it would reflect clearly spiritual truths, but with most of us this mind or mirror is continually agitated so that we get blurred and distorted views of our great spiritual inheritance. The surface of the lake when perfectly calm reflects clearly the heavens above, but broken up by winds and storms everything is in confusion. One remarkable expression in *The Voice of the Silence* needs to be well considered: "Study the voidness of the seeming full, the fullness of the seeming void."

St. Bernard, in speaking of the importance of a right motive in seeking knowledge, says: "There are some who desire to know for the sole purpose that they may know, and it is curiosity; and some who desire to know that they may be known, and it is base ambition; and some who desire to know that they may sell their knowledge for wealth, and it is base avarice; but there are some also who desire to know that they may be edified, and it is prudence; and some who desire to know that they may help others, and it is charity."

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