

WHAT IS CONSCIOUSNESS?

A bubble of the Infinite which has become enmeshed in matter and which is slowly working its way back to its source in the Eternal Spirit. As butter is evolved out of cream, in like manner is the manifested universe evolved out of the unmanifested and Infinite Substance. And as bubbles of buttermilk are caught in the mass of butter, so also in the universal creation bubbles of the Infinite Spirit are caught in matter.

As a bubble of air, released from its bondage in mud at the bottom of a pond and slowly but surely works its way upward through the mud, the ooze, and the water till it reaches the surface, where it expands or bursts or unites with its own element, so likewise is the progress of the individual ego in its journey upward to final union with God. In the first stages of its evolution, in the mineral kingdom, the individual ego, or consciousness, is so heavily weighted down by gross matter—i. e., matter presses so heavily upon the consciousness—that “its life is fairly crushed out of it”; hence, its state of “unconsciousness.” But in the vegetable world the pressure of matter is somewhat relieved and the ego becomes semi-conscious; a still higher form of consciousness is apparent in the animal; but not until man is reached does self-consciousness become manifest.

But also in man, at various times and under varying conditions, all the lower forms are found. Even self-consciousness assumes several forms—as the imaginative, the intellectual, the intuitive, the “class” and the cosmic states. The real ego, or self, “that which in thee knows,” is, of course, no other than the consciousness. It is that which thinks and feels moves and acts and wills. Realizing this, the problems of life, of individual development, and self-evolution become simply a matter of the use or expansion of one’s consciousness, the extent of such use or expansion being limitless.

HUMANITARIANISM

This is humanitarianism: To help others to help themselves and in such way as may be most advantageous for their comfort, happiness, development, and progress.

Man must learn to consider himself, like nature, as a part of the universe and infinite life, rather than a connecting link, something slipped in between. With this view before us, we will have no difficulty in observing that each life of each finite being of whatever nature is but a limited, finite expression of the infinite life; that there is a sort of undercurrent in the life of all, another phase of the infinite life, and that this undercurrent bubbles up to the surface in various manner and form, occasionally and sporadically, in individual lives, and finally comes to the surface universally, as it were, in a floodtide sweeping all before it. This is to be applied to the present time in relation to the abolition of money, for this undercurrent is so strong that were “humanity” to say the word, money would be abolished tomorrow.