

CONTACT

with THE MARTINUS INSTITUTE
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Dear Friends in India and Abroad.

In my last contact letter I explained to you about the three cosmic world impulses with which we all are in contact today, and which spiritual idea material has a great influence on our life every day. I cannot express strongly enough the importance of knowing the real background of your own spiritual position in which you stand today.

How far have you developed spiritually? How is your judgement of others and your attitude towards the situation we are in today? Are you wise, tolerant, and understanding in your attitude? Have you developed so far that you realize the true reason behind all the sorrow and unhappiness which exists in the world today? Or do you bitterly blame others for the unpleasant things which happen in your life? If intolerance and hate still are the greatest weapons in your attitude, then your spiritual life lacks the knowledge of true wisdom.

One important thing is necessary for understanding of true wisdom, namely, the fact that God exists. That He is behind all world development and that absolutely nothing happens in our world that is not His will. If those facts are realistic knowledge in your soul, you will never be among those who bitterly complain over that situation in which they find themselves, and neither will you look at the world situation and call it injustice. You will know that such an attitude is wrong superficial knowledge of the truth, and a criticism of God's great, wonderful plan for our lives. It is very, very important to have a true understanding of the real facts behind our lives, for in that knowledge lies the key to better understanding of ourselves as well as others and the real knowledge of what, in reality, is happening in our world today.

Many speak of their religious beliefs and declare straight out that they know everything about life. The truth is that those who really have developed true spiritual knowledge seldom talk about it, they walk quietly among us. You will see them act in harmony with their beliefs. They carry the deep true understanding in their souls. You recognize this understanding through the smile in their eyes, their kind and mild-mannered even temper, and most of all, their great tolerance and deep understanding of everyone and everything alive. You can easily recognize them among the less spiritually developed "Younger

Brothers" who with their intolerance and ignorance try to hurt them with harsh remarks and words in heated discussions. But the true knowledge those "Older Brothers" have gained through incarnation after incarnation, has given them so deep an understanding of human souls, and their close connection with God, that hate and intolerance from others are met with kindness and love. They are the clear clean "streams", which, unaffected by "muddy slides", quietly run their health-giving cleansing power through "infected water". They are like a warm, mild summer breeze against a stormy wind. To develop that far is to see God and the human being's cosmic position in this world panorama which we witness at the moment. But let us take a deeper look into our world.

Life here on our physical plane is quite different to the life in the spiritual world after death. In the spiritual world we are surrounded only by people with the same spiritually developed standard as ourselves. Here in our physical world we are in contact with people of many different stages of developments. We can meet people of all beliefs, either lower spiritually developed than we, or higher. And that is wonderful, for if we open our souls and listen with a tolerant mind to others beliefs we can gain valuable knowledge. In every belief you will find God's direct teaching. This is God's way of letting the human being have an opportunity to develop its own spiritual talent so it can one day gain true cosmic knowledge. Day after day, incarnation after incarnation, God lets us train this talent-seed in us. Experience after experience is given us, Experiences are the seed of wisdom. And one day the wisdom in us will have developed into the greatest understanding of life. It is on this road to cosmic knowledge that I find Martinus' analysis of the cosmic world impulses most inspiring. When you have studied it, and understood its cosmic significance, you fully realize that every human life follows its own pattern step by step, directed, and guided, by great cosmic forces. You also fully realize that every human being, without exception, pass "the same steps" on its way to cosmic development. The day will come to every human soul when he will fully understand the cosmic plan his life has followed incarnation after incarnation.

Martinus, who has reached the step on the ladder from where he has a clear cosmic view, explains that behind the two words, "hunger" and "saturation", lies a cosmic principle which must be fully experienced by every human being on its way to destiny. Our first great hunger was lust for power. Our great cosmic path, from mental darkness to mental light, originated in the world we call the animal world. Brutal force is the law in the animal world. The strongest force is the winner and the ruler. But in that world it is a necessity and is done by sheer instinct. In our world the same system is used, but here it is neither a necessity, nor is it done by instinct. It is simply done on purpose by the old hunger in us: the lust for power is still demonstrated all over the world and is divided into many sections. One of them is our modern business world. For what, in reality, is the so-called smart business world today but a disguised "animal world" where the lust for power, the strongest force, is the ruler over the weaker ones. We have to make strict laws more than ever before. Time and time again we have to guard ourselves

against a powerful force, which tries, with every trick, to give us less and less value for our money. This is not a criticism of any kind, just an analysis of that old system which is still in use. But this system in our modern business world is slowly but surely on its way to destruction for the simple reason that we all are getting tired of being used by the domination of others. The people outside the business world, as well as the people inside, have begun to see the destruction of this system which has ruined so many, and made so much unhappiness. Today, the spiritual influence has made people all over the world wake up to a new realism. It is natural that the Tiger, or the Lion, in the animal world demonstrates its power and strength. Those animals are born to rule over other animals. It has never, never been God's will that a human being should rule over another human being. We are not born into this world to rule over others. Our distinct purpose is to love and make happiness for each other. Our real purpose on earth is to serve others, yes, even to so great an extent as to give our lives for others if necessary. To ignore those cosmic facts, to make fun of them, and to call them silly, childish idealism, is, in reality, one of the greatest crimes which can be done by anyone.

Before technical science developed on earth, our business world had little ability to progress. At that time very few were rich, and the rest were very poor, and everyone believed that God had made the world like that. When technical wonders were developed on earth, the world changed its whole structure. A new class of people arose who took their position in between the very rich and the very poor, and that class still is further developing into a greater amount today. Many people have the idea that there always will be rich and poor people in the world. This impression is wrong and has nothing to do with the real facts. We are all born into a very rich world which easily could give us all a wonderful physical life. We are, however, far away from having it as long as the world is ruled by "jungle-mentality". But the human race is on its way to developing a much greater spiritual understanding, which will transform our world completely. It is here all our wonder-machines will have their great mission. We can begin to visualize already that the day is not far away when every industrial plant will be run completely automatic. Their mass production will be the best value for the lowest price possible, and everyone will have a life without economical sorrows.

The power behind the great, new cosmic impulse, which now shines over our world, is of such a nature that it will completely destroy all "jungle-mentality" on earth and replace it with true humanism. We are all "Sons of God", but, as long as we do not realize it there will be no peace on earth. It is, however, a consolation to know that the human race has begun to realize that fact more and more. Everything in the world seems to be reacting to the process of disintegration. Old traditions which have existed for years seem to be decaying. Conceptions, which not so long ago were of great importance to the human race, seem to be swept away by the influence of the new cosmic force. A new conception demands recognition: Internationalism, which will, in the future, replace that Nationalism which is dividing the human race into isolated groups. A great new revolution is on its way. Because of the human race's spirit-

ual immaturity, this process cannot go on without bloodshed and tears. This process has already begun, and it will not stop before all the Nations of the world have been united into one world in which the fundamental purpose is the development of spiritual life. It will be a world in which a new, inspiring conception of God and the Universe has taken place.

Maybe it seems that the human race today has no use for a God. But this is only a superficial appearance. Behind its materialism a great hunger for spiritual knowledge is in demand as never before. Our younger generation may seem to be only materialistically inclined, but that is just an impression. Granted, they are not interested in the spiritual teaching which is given in our churches and temples. The reason being, that their fast developing intelligence cannot accept a spiritual teaching which gives them a lot of old prophecies without giving them clear facts. The spiritual teaching, which today is taught in the churches, is the same teaching as was taught hundreds of years ago. While life itself has made great changes and developed rapidly into new forms, our spiritual teaching has stood still in its old environment. But a thing which stands still decays and dies to make way for new and higher developments. Our old religions, the world over, are on their way out to make way for a new higher spiritual teaching which will give our younger generation clear cosmic facts and will satisfy their highly developed intelligence. You often hear complaints about our younger generation's lack of spiritual interest. But would you not lose your interest too if you never got any clear answers to your most burning questions? Our younger generation does not lack spiritual interest, quite the opposite. Their spiritual hunger is enormous. They are burning with questions, but they do demand answers which can satisfy their highly developed intelligence. The churches cannot give it to them, so, quite naturally, they stay away. This spiritual hunger, however, is not only growing in our younger generation, but it is also growing in millions and millions of people of all ages the world over. The world has had enough of the "killing principle's" deadly mentality. It wants peace. But what is peace? It is more than being free of war, and economical sorrow. The world hungers not only for a culmination of material wealth, but far more, for a culmination of spiritual knowledge, and a world of love, and cosmic understanding, where art in every field can be developed to its highest degree. That would be a world of real peace in all its glorious culmination.

The human race today is tired of living in a world of tears, sorrow, and unhappiness. It is longing to live in a world of smiles and happy carefree laughter. Today we have begun to realize that only the happiness of others can bring happiness into our own lives. We have seriously begun to think of the well-being of others. We have begun to realize that we, ourselves, play an important role in this new revolution, and that we must get rid of that "jungle-mentality", which has brought so much sorrow into the world. We have begun to see that the greatest joy is to serve others, not to rule others. Therefore, the spiritually developed human being has now only one wish: to serve in the cause of humanity, to be the "spark of light", not the "spark of darkness". He wants to bring smiles, laughter, and joy to his surroundings. He wants to

be part of God's divine light, to be God's servant, and to help to create a world of peace, beauty, and inspiring spiritual knowledge. The materialistically inclined human being has still too much of the "jungle-mentality" left in him, he has but one wish: to rule over others. He wants to be the "Master" not the "Servant". But, even in this case, the higher developed human being must also practise tolerance. He must never in any way become angry or show disapproval, but rather be kind, considerate, and understanding. Remember always, that no one can behave in any other way than exactly as his experiences in life have taught him to behave. That he still has lessons to learn which you may already have learned, gives you no right to disapprove of him. Be wise in your heart and let the angry words you may have on your lips turn into an understanding smile. Life will also teach this "Son of God" his necessary lessons, and let him understand that sorrow, misfortune, and unhappiness, just as easily find their way into shiny palaces, as they find their way into the poor man's humble shack. God does not count "greatness" in money or fame. "The Real Great", is the one who gets pure joy and inspiration out of helping others. He is model of the real human being in the Image of God. His ways of living have been demonstrated by every spiritual teacher who has walked the earth.

The new cosmic impulse, which radiates on our planet, has the mission to develop and inspire neighbourly love and true humanity. The leaders who govern the different Nations talk about humanism. Every artist wishes to give his help one way or another in the cause of humanity. But it seems like they all have difficulty in making it a reality. The reason being that the true spiritual feeling is lacking. You seldom hear any wellknown Statesman, or great Politician, officially admit that he believes God exists. And the thought of an eternal soul, which cannot die, is met with a doubtful smile. As long as this doubt lives so deeply in the human soul, a real united spiritual world of peace and humanity cannot be a reality. It is, therefore, of the greatest importance that the human being obtains a spiritual knowledge which can develop the understanding in himself that he is an eternal soul united closely with a God who is not an illusion, but a wonderful living reality. We must develop a world in which it is not a shame or a childish attitude, to freely admit that we believe in God and eternal life. We must learn to accept these things as clear facts and be able to speak freely and naturally about them. In the old days, spiritually inclined people isolated themselves in cloisters to be able to worship God in peace, and they still do. But this is wrong, and must be changed. We need those people to walk among us. They have a great mission in the outside world. Who can help more to develop humanity than our "Elder Brothers", who know God, and who's spiritual knowledge, neighbourly love, and deep understanding, can help the human race on its way to a better destiny. Thousands and thousands of people the world over, are taking the Yoga training, and that is fine. It is a good, healthy habit to learn how to control the body, but it is even more necessary that these people put the Yoga teaching into a practical spiritual life, instead of just practising the special exercises. Body control is excellent, but it centers on one's self. To go out in the "outside" world and with your own radiant smile, your kindness, and your

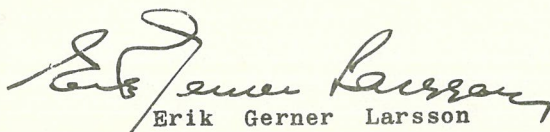
deep understanding and tolerance, help others to happiness, is much more important. You do not get to know the world and the people in it by isolating yourself, neither are you of any help. The human race is longing for understanding and love. We can all help each other there by meeting everyone with an open tolerant mind and by training ourselves to show trust in each other, instead of distrust. We have developed the habit of "being on guard", but that habit does not create love. Love is the foundation of all light, and it is the strongest creative power in the Universe. To vibrate in harmony with this great power is to vibrate in the radiant divine light of God. Distrust, intolerance, and unfriendliness, are characteristics of "The Younger Souls". Such a soul is always afraid: afraid of the world, and afraid of other people. The highly developed spiritual soul, does not know fear of any kind. His complete trust shines over everyone.

The spiritual life, that Martinus teaches us through his cosmic analyses, is far beyond anything connected with "jungle-mentality". If we practise "jungle-mentality", we practise the method used in the animal world; we snarl and bite at each other. But if we practise the highly developed spiritual soul's method, we radiate with our always ready smile. Martinus shows us in his analysis of the human being, that "the smile" plays an important role. It is the reflection of your soul. A radiant smile can bring the love out in others. For Martinus, "Love", the real deep love for others, is identical with a warm, friendly kindness bestowed on everyone. Martinus' cosmic analyses destroy all unnatural religious beliefs which kill joy and laughter, and replace it with a spiritual life which brings harmony, and happiness. Martinus gives, as an example, the great spiritual souls who walked our earth, with their naturally kind manners, their open warm smiles, their well-balanced behaviours, and their ever ready understanding and tolerance of others. Martinus tells us of a spiritual life where to love God is to love your neighbour and every living thing, whether it belongs to the world which we call the human beings, or to the world of the animals, the plants, or the minerals. To see God, is to see Him in all the four worlds mentioned above. It is into this spiritual life that Martinus takes us in his inspiring cosmic analyses in "The Book of Life". Every page in Martinus' books radiates this love, and carries its deep cosmic understanding into the reader's soul. To know Martinus, as we do in my country, Denmark, is to see into a world of divine love and peace. We love and respect him, not only for what he is, but also for what he has brought into our world. Martinus has never put a frame, or a fence, around his spiritual work. Martinus does not wish to form any organizations inside his work, nor will there ever be any membership cards. He wishes us to be completely free in every way. Everyone who has met him has been advised to think for himself, to take of his cosmic analyses whatsoever his soul needs and understands, and to leave the rest. Never force more into your soul than it is able to absorb. Martinus' cosmic science is so outstanding and so highly developed that our time will not quite get the full benefit from it, but the coming generation will. The coming generation will not only come to know Martinus' cosmic science, but it will fully understand all his cosmic

analyses. It will see God in everything, and worship Him in private, not in halls full of people. They will know how to live with each other in love, deep understanding and tolerance, and real peace will be known. People will love each other no matter what colour the skin may be. In this world everyone will have a deep united feeling in his heart. It will be a world built on deep spiritual knowledge, and every human being will radiate with a divine inner light, and will illuminate the world around them. They will add the "spark of light" to everything they contact. The coming generation will be God's true representatives and they will manifest the nearness of His Spirit. Through this generation, a wonderful new world will be born on the ruins of that world we created with our "jungle-mentality", with our disbelief in a God, and with the deadly weapons we used against each other in our greed.

With kindest regards from Martinus and all his co-workers in Denmark, Sweden, the U.S.A., Canada, and India.

Sincerely yours


Erik Gerner Larsson

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MARTINUS

LIVETS BOG I

(THE BOOK OF LIFE I)

Quotation from paragraph 211.

"As the earthly human being belongs to the animal kingdom, and that its existence and condition of life, its nature and character, have been the instrument of the "killing principle", then its memory-material will, in a corresponding degree, mainly be murder-, killing-, fight-, and memory of suffering. But gradually as these memories go through a spiritual process, after which they appear as copies of their original condition, but with the difference, that while they, in that condition appeared as suffering- or gravity-memories, then they after the change appear as perfect copies of these, but build in love-material. In a physical sense this means, that the mentioned memories from appearing as "iron pictures" are being transformed, so they can appear in more precious metals, such as "gold". All memories, though they may be very dark and sinister, will thus, by and by, as they have fulfilled their mission in the consciousness of the individual, leave copies in love-material, which constitutes the spiritual world's noblest "metal" or "gold". All dark memories will therefore always, as time passes, become shining in an ever increasing glorified light. And it is the development of this glorified light of memories, which is the basis for the saying, that "times heal all wounds", just as the same light naturally, to a great extent, also is helpful for every form of reconciliation or forgiveness of injustice. As the memory-material of the individual from previous lives, already long ago, has been transferred to "gold", and as its inner world mainly consists of this memory-material, then this world will be identical with the whole of its eternal lifepanorama with all its previous actions and experiences, copied or appearing in everlasting love-material or the spiritual world's gold-material, As all memories of experiences in this inner world

thus will appear in divine glory, and this glory again is felt or experienced by the individual as "bliss", then the individual's inner world have here in Livets Bog got the name of the "kingdom of bliss", and constitutes a plane of existence, which has its zone of unfolding directly after "the divine world" in the spiral of evolution."

Quotation from paragraph 211.

"As the earthly human being belongs to the animal kingdom and that its existence and condition of life, its nature and character, have been the instrument of the "killing principle", then its memory-material will, in a corresponding degree, mainly be of a dark, heavy, and memory of suffering. But gradually as these memories go through a spiritual process, after which they appear as copies of their original condition, but with the difference, that while they, in that condition appeared as suffering- or gravity-memories, then they after the change appear as perfect copies of these, but build in love-material. In a physical sense this means, that the memories from appearing as "iron pictures" are being transformed, so they can appear in more precious metals such as "gold". All memories, though they may be very dark and sinister, will thus, by and by, as they have fulfilled their mission in the consciousness of the individual, leave copies in love-material, which constitutes the spiritual world's noblest "metal" or "gold". All dark memories will therefore always, as time passes, become shining in an ever increasing glorified light. And it is the development of this glorified light of memories, which is the basis for the saying, that "times heal all wounds", just as the same light, actually, to a great extent, also is helpful for every form of reconciliation or forgiveness of injustice. As the memory-material of the individual from previous lives, already long ago, has been transferred to "gold", and as the inner world mainly consists of this memory-material, then this world will be identical with the whole of the eternal life-patterns with all the previous actions and experiences, copied or appearing in everlasting love-material or the spiritual world's gold-material. As all memories of experiences in this inner world

Martinus:

W H Y F O R G I V E Y O U R N E I G H B O U R

We find ourselves at present in a cultural epoch in which the generally accepted view, stripped of all circumlocutions, is, in actual fact: "An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth". It is this conception that is the basis of the legalized murders called: the "death penalty", and indeed for everything connected with the conception of "punishment". When someone has been murdered people feel it only just and right that the murderer himself be murdered. Could any better example be given to show that this rule is, in actual fact, the law of Moses that is being practised.

Then why be so exasperated with the Jews - as so many people apparently are - when they themselves so blatantly practise Jewish laws and customs? Admittedly, Denmark has abolished the death penalty, but here too it has been proved that Christ's words: "Let him that thinketh he standeth, take heed lest he fall", are still of immediate importance or indeed imperative. For we have seen how, after the War, the death penalty was re-introduced. And not enough with that. An Act of Parliament was also passed setting forth that punishment could be enforced for acts committed in the past when such acts were still legally permissible. Could a more insidious undermining of people's reliance on, or confidence in legal justice, be imagined? How could any feeling of safety be possible when the authorities themselves openly declare that acts at present legally permissible, may well, in coming years, be declared illegal - and with retro-active force - by these selfsame authorities? Could a more foolish, confusing an unjust execution of legal practice be manifested? According to this kind of legal practice citizens who assuredly have never wittingly committed an infringement of any legal statute may, nevertheless, suddenly be declared delinquents and thus be registered as "criminals" simply because the authorities afterwards have got it into their heads that certain acts that were then not forbidden are in fact of a criminal nature and ought to have been forbidden! Such a flagrant delay in building up the Law can only be attributed to a far too narrow and inertly slow mental capacity, and to inadequate powers of observation on the part of the legislature concerned. But such inadequacy can easily be circumvented. All that is necessary is to imprison and punish certain citizens for infringement of laws which the authorities, at the given time, (on account of their inadequate mental powers, or lagging insight into the situation in question) did not realize the necessity of, and therefore had not thought of enacting. But to punish people for the infringement of laws which do not exist must in itself be criminal. Laws which do not exist cannot possibly be broken. The authorities, then, punish people for "breaking laws" which these same authorities (on account of inadequate mental qualifications) had, at the time when said "infringements" took place, not yet enacted! If there should be any question of punishment here, it must be solely the legislative authorities themselves who are liable - for setting a death-trap to catch unoffending citizens who, in good faith, only did what was legally permissible, yet who nevertheless, in the course of time, may well

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risk being stamped as criminals, and thus be made liable to punishment.

During the recently ended struggle for liberty, it was considered an honourable act, in certain situations, to kill one's fellow human beings, and likewise an honourable death, if one happened to be killed oneself in the course of said struggle. As these lines are being written, widespread celebrations are being prepared to commemorate this underground struggle for freedom; glorious commendatory functions to do honour to the memory of those freedom-fighters who in good faith lost their lives in the struggle, and to acclaim those participants in this butchery of man by man still left alive. This is in itself only natural. We all feel an urge to pay tribute to what we consider lofty ideals. But if we ask ourselves whether this struggle for freedom and this glorification of the use of the sword, and of military weapons in general, is true "Christianity", the answer must necessarily be negative. And that is why I have touched upon this problem here. In our day, it must now more than ever be our object to establish once and for all what is Christianity and what is paganism. As regards the above struggle for freedom with its attendant celebrations and glorification of "heroic deeds", it must be admitted that this has absolutely nothing to do with Christianity. On the contrary, all such situations and celebrations are solely in honour of the old Gods of Valhalla. In worshipping these gods it was an honourable deed to kill and to be killed oneself. Anyone averse to living in this way was considered a weakling and one who would never reach the same heavenly abode, as would the mighty killers. What is the god "Thor" with his weighty "hammer"? Isn't he the very symbol, the very culmination of the ability to kill? Isn't he the symbol of the mighty warrior with his unerring weapons of murder? Freedom fighters and their adversaries were also warriors equipped with murderous weapons. And what are the modern weapons of war - atom and hydrogen bombs and similar frightfully effective instruments of murder and war - other than the culmination of the principle of "Thor's Hammer" pure and unadulterated? The old Nordic god is worshipped today even more vigorously than ever. But this idolisation is carried out under the banner of "Christianity". Indeed, the Christian clergy often actually bless the weapons of war, i.e. "Thor's Hammer". The youthful flower of the state is forcibly enrolled as soldiers, that is to say, as "professional warriors", and the state teaches and trains these youngsters in the most effectful methods of killing the "enemy", and of destroying that enemy's possessions, property and cultural treasures. In other words, the state teaches and trains her youth in the usages of "Thor's Hammer". Is this Christianity? And moreover, is it not the so-called "Christian states" that are the most powerful and efficient warlike nations of the world? Which, if any, of the nations with other world religions possess such an overwhelming capacity for murder and destruction? Not one of them. Did we not also observe that the Christian calling within the Christian Church was not more stabilized, and had not more root in the mentality of her clergy, than that many of these official representatives of Christ themselves enlisted as freedom fighters, and others again as their opponents, in that they seceded to the "enemy" side? - And was it not small arms, bombs and other hellish war machines - i.e. "Thor's Hammer" - that were the foundation of their existence? - It may well be that

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many of these fighters prayed to the Christian God - but what did they pray for? - Did they not pray that they might be successful in sabotaging and destroying the factories, buildings and weapons in enemy hands? - Did they not pray that God would protect them while they were out on nightly raids murdering and sabotaging among their adversaries? - And might it not sometimes happen that quite similar prayers were sent up to God by these very same opponents? - Verily, strange kinds of prayer for Christian people in general and for Christian priests in particular! Could a greater parody of true Christianity be imagined? Do we not here observe that the twentieth-century clergy just as the clergy that became Christ's executioners and murderers almost two thousand years ago, have not the smallest conception of what they are actually doing. The above-named freedom-fighter priests - whether on the so-called "legal" or on the "traitor" side - have shown openly by their murderous activities that, in point of fact, they do not know true Christianity, for if they did they would know that the best and truest safeguard can never be sabotage or injuring and murdering other people - can never be the principle of "Thor's Hammer" - but, on the contrary, solely the principle: "thou shalt not kill". That is, not to injure others, nor to provoke war, but solely and only to release peace, happiness and blessings.

But when the authorized Christian clergy do not themselves yet know what true Christianity is, it is no wonder that the Christian confraternity does not know the true meaning of Christianity either. The morals and kind of behaviour that humanity has gradually acquired, and calls "Christianity", are certainly not true Christianity. What then is true Christianity? There is definitely no other true Christianity than the consistent spirit and unfailing display of charitableness which at all times constituted Christ's daily life and behaviour, and for which He gave theoretical, practical and symbolic expression in His intercourse and teachings. In Christ's behaviour we see the fully developed human mentality. This mentality thus differs from the mentality of the ordinary human being in that it has been completely purged of or liberated from the mental predispositions inherited by man from the animal kingdom. He never demonstrated egoism or selfishness. In His life there was never even the smallest sign of envy or jealousy. Nor can we find any signs of intolerance or antipathy, or of bitterness and anger. On the contrary, we see only a fully developed aptitude enabling Him to see the solution of the mystery of life and thus the purpose of every human being's existence. Here was a fully developed talent for a life in complete concord with God, and hence for a harmonious and loving attitude towards every living being. Here was a fully developed talent for understanding his neighbour's actions and troubles, so that whatever the situation He was able to forgive him, even when it was a case of His own crucifixion. He had a fully developed talent for always preferring to give rather than to accept, to serve rather than be served. He had a fully developed talent for never feeling affronted or hurt. He had a fully developed talent for always turning the left cheek when He had been struck on the right. He could always turn the light of His love on those who hated Him. In this way, as shown above, there was never the smallest sign of any animal tendency in His mentality. He was totally unfettered by what is so often so much to the fore in other people's

mentality, and which we have come to know as "Evil". He was a perfect human being in "God's Image". God's Image again is the same as God's Spirit, God's Knowledge and Behaviour, or what is known in the Bible as "The Holy Ghost". And it is Christ's Behaviour or God's Spirit that constitutes true Christianity - the religion of religions or the nucleus of spiritual science. It is due to this, the perfect human mentality, God's Spirit, or cosmic consciousness, that Christ could express Himself as "The Way, the Truth and the Life". - That is, the sublime condition of life which was called after Him and given the name "Christianity".

The meaning of this Christianity was expressed by the World Redeemer, among other ways, by the precept: "But I say unto you, that ye resist not evil; but whosoever shall smite thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also". Now what exactly does this mean? To offer one's left cheek when one has been struck on the right is in reality the same as to invite one's enemy to strike one on the left cheek as well! Can such an invitation be the explicit Christian meaning? It is true that such a mode of action would usually seem an invitation to our persecutors to strike us on our left cheek as well after having already struck us on our right, but this is not what is meant in the instruction for behaviour given by Christ. The main point is to show one's enemy or persecutors that, mentally as well as physically, one is quite immune to acts of violence, and that one's human consciousness is thus quite unconquerable by any sort of persecution. All persecution by violence or force belongs to the animal kingdom. Anyone who employs this mode of compulsion in his behaviour reveals or compromises himself as a person of animalistic mentality. It was a being of this type that the wise men of olden days symbolized in their prehistoric sphinx: the animal trunk with a human head. This, for thousands of years almost imperishable stone colossus out in the Egyptian desert was intended to remind man that he was not yet a finished human being. The human head on the sphinx expresses the fact that earthly man has now gained certain mental powers that do not belong to the ordinary animal sphere of life. And as these new powers belong to a sphere of life above that of the animal kingdom in the same way that the animal kingdom is above the vegetable kingdom, they consequently raise man to the higher sphere above the animal kingdom in like degree that he gradually develops these same higher mental or psychic powers. And as these higher powers are "human" powers, the "animal" becomes "human" in the same proportion that it progresses sufficiently far to possess these powers. But, as the acquisition of these powers can only take place through a long epoch of development, this epoch will necessarily come to form a sphere of life for beings in whom the human abilities have reached a more or less advanced stage of development. And these beings must therefore be human in their mentality proportionately as these mental powers have been developed in them. On the basis of this human quality these beings will dissociate themselves from the level of the ordinary animal kingdom and emerge more and more as "human" beings. To this category of beings ordinary earthly man belongs. But such a being is not a "human being" serene and perfect. He has become a human being only in the same proportion or degree that, by reason of this "human" qualities and abilities, he has been developed to be able to act in a "human" Letter No. 8.

manner. But in fields of manifestation where he has not been developed sufficiently far to act in a "human" way he can, of course, only act in an "animal" way.

What is the meaning of the terms "animal" and "human" behaviour? In order to understand "animal" and "human" behaviour we must first understand what is meant by "behaviour". The behaviour or manifestation of a living being is a result of its supreme inner and vital urge - its "urge to survive". Without this driving force a living being's "I", or inmost self cannot possibly experience life. The "I" or ego of a living being - as explained in my main work: "Livets Bog" (The Book of Life) - is, certainly, an eternal reality, but this its eternal existence would be of no importance if it could not be apprehended or experienced by this "I". But in order to be experienced it must show itself as details standing out as mutual contrasts.

And it is on the basis of this principle of contrast that the experience of life work out as a development from primitive to ever more perfect forms: from mineral to vegetable, from vegetable to animal, from animal to human beings and so forth. The difference between "animal" and "human" mentality is thus simply a difference in the stage of development. Animal mentality is primitive, while human mentality exhibits a more advanced stage of development, constituting in its highest stage a supreme intellectuality.

Behind the animal's survival urge we find thus only a purely primitive and unintellectual consciousness or mentality. Said animal can only sustain life by means of purely physical powers and skills, and as its very life and survival depends to a large extent on animal food, its physical forces and skills must be proportionately developed to be superior to those of such animals as it must hunt and kill in order to seize their organisms as food. It has thus become a vital necessity for it to kill in order to live. And here survival becomes simply a question of might. Here there is no question of any form of justice, or any sixth commandment: "Thou shalt not kill". Here, on the contrary, the command is: "Thou shalt kill in order to live". As man is a being that is being developed out of this animal world, he will, as far as this development has progressed, exhibit a proportionately higher stage of human qualities. He is no longer an animal pure and simple. His new stage of development has provided him with new abilities and new characteristics, which, to a greater or lesser degree, raise him above the animal stage, so that, in reality it is no longer a vital necessity for him to kill animal life in order to live. Here, on the contrary, the rule applies: "Thou shalt not kill". In short, here all the vital requirements of life are embodied in the single great commandment or the fulfilling of all laws: "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart above all, and thy neighbour as thyself". The fulfilment of this mode of behaviour is thus the very acme of the vital necessity in the new sphere of development. But at this pinnacle of excellence or this culmination of behaviour the ordinary earthly human being has not yet arrived, even if he has advanced quite some distance on his way out of the animal sphere. The unfinished earthly human being is thus a being in whom we find partly animalistic tendencies and partly human tendencies. Hence it is not so strange that human civilization appears to be based correspondingly, partly on animalistic and partly on human

tendencies, or in other words: partly on the principle of killing and partly on the principle of love and humanitarianism. Thus, we observe great human, technical and chemical achievements, amazing material wonders: power, light and heating, all created by man. By means of enormous powerhouses he has harnessed the stupendous forces of nature and made them work for him. By means of these harnessed forces he is able to transport himself round the earth through the air or under the sea, across the continents by rail or by motor-road, and by floating hotels across the widest seas. But, at the same time that he creates all these highly civilized human comforts his civilization is permeated by the remaining vestiges of his animal nature, in which it is still might and not right that is the prevailing principle. Within a very large sphere of human civilization the principle of "might goes before right" is still upheld to a greater or lesser degree. To practise the principle of force instead of the principle of justice is not a vital requirement here, and cannot be a virtue, as is the case in the animal kingdom. To pursue the principle of force instead of the principle of justice in human relations results in a derailment of all human civilization in the form of war, murder and fratricide, as well as the destruction of many of the cultural values that have already been created on a large scale for the pleasure and improved welfare of mankind. This undermining and destruction of all civilization and human intercourse is thus entirely a direct result of the animal nature still present in man. We cannot find a single example of an unhappy fate which does not originate in the first place in its sufferer's more or less prevailing animal nature or mentality. Any form of thought or action which releases hate, anger, rancour, persecution, slander, professional or personal jealousy, envy, covetousness or any destructive or murderous action, which attacks our neighbour's life or property, is simply a display of animal nature. By these actions, or the disposition they express, man reveals those fields of his consciousness or mentality in which he has not yet fully become a "human being". And where he has not yet become a human being he has only his "animal" mentality to fall back upon, and is therefore forced to act in an "animal" way. For, of course, he cannot possibly act according to a "human" nature which he has not yet acquired. He who feels loathing and gets angry with such a being reveals himself as being no less an "unfinished" being than the person on whom he wishes to vent his rancour.

We now understand the World Redeemer's attitude whenever confronted by this stage of animalistic nature in the mentality of his persecutors. We understand why, when on the cross, He prayed in front of His executioners: "Father, forgive them, they know not what they do", instead of displaying hate, wrath or resentment with them. It is now obvious why He tells us to forgive our neighbour not merely seven times daily, but up to seventy times seven times if necessary. We understand too why He said to Peter: "Put up again thy sword into his place; for all they that take the sword shall perish with the sword". He saw clearly the true reason why human beings acted in an "animal" way. He saw that it was solely because in this or that sphere they had not yet acquired "human" mentality. And in those spheres where they had no "human" mentality they could not, of course, act in a "human" way. He saw that to "punish" or

revenge oneself on one's neighbour for this reason was glaringly unjust. He saw that injustice could never lead to love, to happiness or enjoyment of life. Where there is no love, happiness or enjoyment of life there can only remain hate, brutality, unhappiness, sorrow and suffering. And that was why He Himself offered the left cheek when He had been struck on the right - or was even crucified by His enemies. And therefore it was that He advised also humanity to offer the left cheek when they had been struck on the right. This was the reason why He Himself set so glorious an example to be followed, both in behaviour and speech, exhorting people to love their enemies, to bless those that cursed them, to do good to those that hated them, and to pray for those who spitefully used them and persecuted them. He had experienced that this mode of behaviour was definitely the only one that led to "The Way, The Truth and The Life", or to the final aim of God's Creation: "Man in God's Image".

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(Translated from the Danish by C. Campbell-McCallum)

