Wed 4/23/25 - Seeing through a clear lens



April 23 2025

Hymn. 482:1–5

God created us in His own image,
All the universe is His creation too;
He created us as His reflection,
Filling us with wisdom, bold and true.

Life is made for living to the fullest,
Spirit made us knowing who we truly are,
Knowing how to see reality,
Pure and innocent and free,
Made in the likeness of our God.

REFRAIN

This clear view of man is perfect, Seen in all the radiance of light; Here we find our nature revealed, Spiritual and whole in God's sight.

Everything our Master Jesus taught us Showed the way to love each other dearly, When he healed the sick and freed the sinner, Seeing them in God's own light so clearly.

As we gain the perfect understanding That eternal Mind is the All-in-all, We shall come to see reality, Pure and innocent and free, Made in the likeness of our God.

REFRAIN

Words: Graça de Maria Amorim dos Santos; eng. tr. CSPS

Music: Graça de Maria Amorim dos Santos; arr. CSPS

Hymn. 206:1–3

O God, our Father-Mother, Love,
Purge Thou our hearts from sin,
That in Thy radiancy divine
We may with eyes undimmed define
Thy will, reality.

O God, our Father-Mother, Truth,
Send forth Thy light sublime,
That in its pure and cleansing rays
We may, with thought attuned to praise,
Behold reality.

O God, our Father-Mother, Life,
Reveal in us Thy might,
That henceforth we may live to Thee,
In all our ways reflecting Thee,
And know reality.

Words: Duncan Sinclair Music: Henry L. Morley

Hymn. 442:1-4

Be Thou my vision, O Lord of my heart; Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art. Thou my best thought, by day or by night, Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light.

Be Thou my wisdom, and Thou my true Word;

I ever with Thee and Thou with me, Lord; Thou my great Father and I Thy true son, Thou in me dwelling, and I with Thee one.

Riches I heed not, nor earth's empty praise, Thou mine inheritance, now and always; Thou and Thou only, first in my heart, High King of heaven, my treasure Thou art.

High King of heaven, my victory won,
May I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's sun!
Heart of my own heart whatever befall,
Still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

Words: Irish, ca. 8th c.; tr. Mary E. Byrne; versed Eleanor H. Hull, alt. Music: Irish melody, Joyce's Old Irish Folk Music and Songs, 1909; harm. Jack Schrader

I John 1:5 God

5 ... God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.

Hab. 1:13 (to:)

13 Thou art of purer eyes than to behold evil, and canst not look on iniquity: ...

I Cor. 13:12 now

12 ... now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known.

SH 504:28-29

Spirit is light, and the contradiction of Spirit is matter, darkness, and darkness obscures light.

SH 513:7-10

To

material sense, this divine universe is dim and
distant, gray in the sombre hues of twilight;
but anon the veil is lifted, and the scene shifts into light.

Spiritual spheres

SH 276:12-14

The realization that all inharmony is unreal brings objects and thoughts into human view in their true light, and presents them as beautiful and immortal.

Prov. 23:5 (to?)

5 Wilt thou set thine eyes upon that which is not? ...

Matt. 6:22

The light of the body is the eye: if therefore thine eye be single, thy whole body shall be full of light.

SH 586:3

3 **Eyes.** Spiritual discernment, — not material but mental.

SH 393:25

When Jesus declares that "the light of the body is the eye," he certainly means that light depends upon Mind, not upon the complex humors, lenses, muscles, the iris and pupil, constituting the visual organism.

SH 84:19-23

To understand that Mind is infinite, not bounded by corporeality, not dependent upon the ear and eye for sound or sight nor upon muscles and bones for locomotion, is a step towards the Mindscience by which we discern man's nature and existence.

The Mind

SH 264:3-10

The crude creations of mortal thought must finally give place to the glorious forms which we sometimes behold in the camera of divine Mind, when the mental picture is spiritual and eternal. Mortals must look beyond fading, finite forms, if they would gain the true sense of things.

Mind's true camera

9 Where shall the gaze rest but in the unsearchable realm of Mind?

I John 3:1-3

- Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not.
- 2 Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.
- 3 And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.

Matt. 5:48

48 Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.

Matt. 8:2, 3

- 2 And, behold, there came a leper and worshipped him, saying, Lord, if thou wilt, thou canst make me clean.
- And Jesus put forth *his* hand, and touched him, saying, I will; be thou clean. And immediately his leprosy was cleansed.

SH 359:29-14

A Christian Scientist and an opponent are like two artists. One says: "I have spiritual ideals, indestructible and glorious. When others see them as I do, in their true light and loveliness, — and

Two different artists

- know that these ideals are real and eternal because drawn from Truth, — they will find that nothing is lost, and all
- 3 is won, by a right estimate of what is real."

The other artist replies: "You wrong my experience.

I have no mind-ideals except those which are both mental

- and material. It is true that materiality renders these ideals imperfect and destructible; yet I would not exchange mine for thine, for mine give me such personal
- 9 pleasure, and they are not so shockingly transcendental.

They require less self-abnegation, and keep Soul well out of sight. Moreover, I have no notion of losing my old doctrines or human opinions."

Dear reader, which mind-picture or externalized thought shall be real to you, — the material or the spiritual?

SH 593:4

PROPHET. A spiritual seer; disappearance of material sense before the conscious facts of spiritual Truth.

SH 476:32-5

Jesus beheld in Science the per-

- fect man, who appeared to him where sinning mortal man appears to mortals. In this perfect man the Saviour
- 3 saw God's own likeness, and this correct view of man healed the sick. Thus Jesus taught that the kingdom of God is intact, universal, and that man is pure and holy.

SH 129:22-24

We must look deep

into realism instead of accepting only the out-

Ontology needed

ward sense of things.

SH 264:21 (only)

21 Matter disappears under the microscope of Spirit.

John 9:39 Jesus (to;)

39 ... Jesus said, For judgment I am come into this world, that they which see not might see; ...

Mark 8:22-25

- ¶ And he cometh to Bethsaida; and they bring a blind man unto him, and besought him to touch him.
- And he took the blind man by the hand, and led him out of the town; and when he had spit on his eyes, and put his hands upon him, he asked him if he saw aught.

- 24 And he looked up, and said, I see men as trees, walking.
- 25 After that he put *his* hands again upon his eyes, and made him look up: and he was restored, and saw every man clearly.

SH 301:24

Delusion, sin, disease, and death arise from the false testimony of material sense, which, from a supposed standpoint outside the focal distance of infinite Spirit, presents an inverted image of Mind and substance with everything turned upside

SH 122:15-18, 21

down.

The optical focus is another proof of the illusion of material sense. On the eye's retina, sky and tree-tops apparently join hands, clouds and ocean meet and mingle.

Testimony of the senses

Experience is full of instances of similar illusions, which every thinker can recall for himself.

SH 299:26

Corporeal sense, or error, may seem to hide Truth,

health, harmony, and Science, as the mist obscures the sun or the mountain; but Science, the sunshine of Truth, will melt away the shadow and reveal the celestial
 peaks.

Matt. 7:1, 2 (to:), 3-5

- 1 Judge not, that ye be not judged.
- ² For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged: ...
- 3 And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother's eye, but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye?
- 4 Or how wilt thou say to thy brother, Let me pull out the mote out of thine eye;

- and, behold, a beam is in thine own eye?
- Thou hypocrite, first cast out the beam out of thine own eye; and then shalt thou see clearly to cast out the mote out of thy brother's eye.

I John 2:8–11 the

- 8 ... the darkness is past, and the true light now shineth.
- 9 He that saith he is in the light, and hateth his brother, is in darkness even until now.
- He that loveth his brother abideth in the light, and there is none occasion of stumbling in him.
- But he that hateth his brother is in darkness, and walketh in darkness, and knoweth not whither he goeth, because that darkness hath blinded his eyes.

Acts 9:1-6, 8, 10-13, 15, 17, 18, 20

- And Saul, yet breathing out threatenings and slaughter against the disciples of the Lord, went unto the high priest,
- 2 And desired of him letters to Damascus to the synagogues, that if he found any of this way, whether they were men or women, he might bring them bound unto Jerusalem.
- And as he journeyed, he came near Damascus: and suddenly there shined round about him a light from heaven:
- 4 And he fell to the earth, and heard a voice saying unto him, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me?
- And he said, Who art thou, Lord? And the Lord said, I am Jesus whom thou persecutest: *it is* hard for thee to kick against the pricks.
- And he trembling and astonished said, Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?

 And the Lord *said* unto him, Arise, and go into the city, and it shall be told thee what thou must do.
- And Saul arose from the earth; and when his eyes were opened, he saw no man: but they led him by the hand, and brought *him* into Damascus.
- ¶ And there was a certain disciple at Damascus, named Ananias; and to him said the Lord in a vision, Ananias. And he said, Behold, I *am here*, Lord.
- And the Lord *said* unto him, Arise, and go into the street which is called Straight, and inquire in the house of Judas for *one* called Saul, of Tarsus: for,

- behold, he prayeth,
- And hath seen in a vision a man named Ananias coming in, and putting *his* hand on him, that he might receive his sight.
- 13 Then Ananias answered, Lord, I have heard by many of this man, how much evil he hath done to thy saints at Jerusalem:
- But the Lord said unto him, Go thy way: for he is a chosen vessel unto me, to bear my name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel:
- And Ananias went his way, and entered into the house; and putting his hands on him said, Brother Saul, the Lord, *even* Jesus, that appeared unto thee in the way as thou camest, hath sent me, that thou mightest receive thy sight, and be filled with the Holy Ghost.
- And immediately there fell from his eyes as it had been scales: and he received sight forthwith, and arose, and was baptized.
- And straightway he preached Christ in the synagogues, that he is the Son of God.

SH 242:15

Self-love is more opaque than a solid body. In patient obedience to a patient God, let us labor to dissolve with the universal solvent of Love the adamant of error, — self-will, self-justification, and self-love, — which wars against spirituality and is the law of sin and death.

SH 295:16

The manifestation of God through mortals is as light passing through the window-pane. The light and the glass never mingle, but as matter, the glass is less opaque than the walls. The mortal mind through which Truth appears most vividly is that one which has lost much materiality — much error — in order to become a better transparency for Truth. Then, like a cloud melting into thin vapor, it no longer hides the sun.

Goodness transparent

SH 264:13

As mortals gain more correct views of God and man, multitudinous objects of creation, which before were invisible, will become visible. When we realize that Life is Spirit, never in nor of matter, this understanding will expand into self-completeness, finding all in God, good, and needing no other consciousness.

Self-completeness

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