

WHAT IS THIS WORLD?

The Nature of the World and the Dream

B: The Body
 Dr: Dream or Illusion
 Gd: God
 L: Love
 OS: Same/One Son/Oneness

Excerpts from A Course of Love



“This is what you have made this world for: to prove your separate existence in a world apart from your Creator. This world does not exist. And you do not exist apart from your Creator.”

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Ch 1 p.20 1.15 Dr

“Why not forgive the world for being other than what you have thought it to be and begin to learn what it really is? This is what the world is here for. And when you have learned what it would teach you, you will have need of it no more, and you will gently let it go and find heaven in its place.”

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Ch 6 p.45 6.2

“Everything here is to help you learn to perceive correctly, and from there to go beyond perception to the truth.”

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Ch 6 p.46 6.7

“Of course you must help your sister and brother, for they are yourself, and they are your only means to grasp eternity even within this false reality you have made.”

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Ch 9 p.71 9.26

“Such is the world that God did create: A world so lovely and so peaceful that when you see it once again you will cry with joy and forget your sadness in an instant. There will be no long remembering of regrets, no feeling badly for all the years in which you saw this not. There will merely be a glad “Aha!” as what was long forgotten is returned to you. You will but smile at the childish games you played, and have no more regrets than you would have for your childhood. Your innocence will stand out clearly here, and never again will you doubt that the world that God created belongs to you and you to it.”

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Ch 9 p.77 9.47

Gd

“Without the original idea of separation, the external aspect of life would not exist. Just as fear is not real although it seems to be, separation is not real although it seems to be.”

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Ch 12 p.97 12.20

“The idea of separation changed nothing in reality, but became a drama acted out upon a stage so real that it seemed to be reality.”

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Ch 12 p.97 12.22

Dr

“Yet while the son’s extension into an external world is quite real, it is all that is truly real within it.”

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Ch 12 p.98 12.24

“It cannot be emphasized strongly enough that you learn what you choose to learn. For proof of this all you need do is look at the world that was created from your wish to learn what the idea of separation would teach you. When you resided in unity, you could not imagine what this world would be like any more than you can now imagine what a united world will be like. You did not understand, from unity’s standpoint, what it was that you were asking for, or the extent of involvement this learning would require. In order to learn what the idea of separation would teach you, you needed to believe that you existed in a separated state. Thus, “forgetting” that you actually reside in unity was a requirement of this condition you wished to experience. This condition was thus made available.”

Ch 18 p.125 18.9

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“Form is the result of belief. Thus belief is not only capable of changing form but also is necessary in order to do so.”

Ch 23 p.156 23.1

“The only thing real about time is its eternal nature.”

Ch 30 p.184 30.3

“You are a creator who created this diversity. It was and is a choice meant to release the beauty of expression in all its forms.”

Day 9 p.548 9.25

“The house of illusion is the stage on which the drama of the human experience has been acted out.”

Ch 11 p.308 10.5

“The house of illusion is not a hell to which anyone has been banished. It can at times be a chosen hell, just as it can at times be a chosen heaven. Choice and the awareness of the power of choice that exists within is all that differentiates one from the other.”

Ch 11 p.309 10.12

“Form is the ultimate expression of the power of creation.”

Day 10 p.551 10.1

“All the benefits you might want to bring to the world are brought about in only one way: The way of sharing in union and relationship.”

Day 11 p.559 11.5

“Once the One Self became form and knew Its Self, it knew separate thought. The separate thoughts of the one self, rather than the form of the one self, allowed for the knowing of the self that created the many selves.”

Day 13 p.563 13.1

OS

“The spacious Self realizes that the outer world is a projection and most often a rejection rather than an extension of what is within.”

Day 14 p.565 14.2

“A new experience was chosen—the experience of existing within the realm of physicality. As such, it was as much a new beginning as the new beginning you are now called to. It required the learning of a new thought system, the thought system of the physical, a thought system that was not needed before there was physical form.”

Ch 17 p.329 17.4

“The biblical story of Adam and Eve that has them eating from the tree of knowledge was an illustration of the effects of this observation and the judgment that sprang from it. The self “fell” from unity through this judgment of what it observed as being other than itself, through this beginning of making distinctions between the self and all other things in creation that existed with the self. This is why the story of creation includes the naming of creatures. It was the beginning of perception and of the idea that what was observable was “other than” he who did the observing.”

Ch 17 p.329 17.2

“Consciousness began as all feeling and all thought, all of which were of love because love is everything. All feeling and all thoughts of love extended into the paradise of creation. This was the Garden of Eden, the Self, the All of All. Unwanted feelings that you attempted to expel from the Garden of Eden were not expelled from consciousness, but from your awareness. This created the separate and the unloved in your perception, and your perception created an unreal reality of the separate and unloved, often referred to as hell or hell on earth. Love and fear existed simultaneously as did paradise and hell. This became your world, which slowly grew from a world primarily made up of paradise and love, to a world primarily made up of hell and fear because as more was expelled from paradise, more was perceived as hellish or fearful.

“The expelled feelings that seemed to cause this duality still exist in consciousness. Once these expelled feelings are returned to the spacious Self and the spacious Self embraces them with love, the spacious Self will be whole, for it will embrace everything—as love, which is everything—embraces it. This is paradise re-found.”

Day 16 p.578 16.15 – 16 L

“...what you projected and named thousands of other “things,” you separated from yourself only in time and space. In time and space your projections became separate and other than you. This is what the world of time and space is. A world that is a projection that you have made, a world that has the shape and form, the character and value, the image and meaning, that you would give it. This is your universe.”

Day 39 p.651 39.18

“External divine patterns include the observable forms that make up your world, everything from the planet on which you exist to the stars in the sky, from the body you seem to inhabit to the animal and plant life that exists around you. From the daintiest and most intricately laced snowflake to the stem of a plant to the workings of the human brain, a divine pattern is evident and should not be beyond your belief. Despite the differences in what you see, think, and feel, there is but one external divine pattern that created the observable world, and only one internal divine pattern that created the internal world. The internal divine pattern was that of learning.”

Ch 4 p.425 4.12 B

“These distortions occurred as you assigned meaning or “truth” to things, truly believing in your ability to do so. You thus determined what the world around you was meant to represent. It was in much the same way that the ego came to represent you.”

Ch 5 p.430 5.2

“The world without was created as a true representation of the world within, and as you become aware of the truth represented in all that encompasses and surrounds you, the boundaries between the inner and outer world will diminish and eventually cease to be.”

Ch 5 p.430 5.4

“There is thus truth, or what we might call the seeds of the truly real, or the energy of creation, in everything that exists in form.”

Ch 6 p.436 6.6

“And so we begin with a distinction between what exists as living form, and what exists as inanimate or non-living form. While you might think this is an easily drawn distinction—and it is—it is not perhaps as you have previously seen it, for everything that exists in form is of the same Source.”

Ch 6 p.436 6.6

“It is your perception of the forms around you as non-living forms that cause them to have rigidity and a particular meaning. But they still are real, even if they are not as they appear to be to the body’s eyes.”

Ch 6 p.436 6.7

“Child of God, you are alien here but need not be alien to your Self. In your knowledge of your Self, all threat of time and space and place dissolves. You may still walk an alien land, but not in a fog of amnesia that obscures what would be a brief adventure and replaces it with dreams of terror and confusion so rampant that no toehold of security is possible, and day turns endlessly into night in a long march toward death. Recognize who you are and God’s light goes before you, illuminating every path and shining away the fog of dreams from which you waken undisturbed.”

Ch 4 p.32 4.6

Gd

“God is known to you within relationships, as this is all that is real here.” In “Unity” Ch 5 p.43 5.30

Gd

“Think about this now—for how could heaven be a separate place? A piece of geography distinct from all the rest? How could it not encompass everything and still be what it is: home to God’s beloved son and dwelling place of God Himself? It is because God is not separate from anything that you cannot be. It is because God is not separate from anything that heaven is where you are.”

In “Unity”

Ch 6 p.49 6.19

L Gd GS

An external world is but a projection that cannot take you away from the internal world where you exist in wholeness, a link in the chain of creation.

Ch 18 p.125 18.8

“The world does not exist apart from you, and so you must realize your compassionate connection. The world is not a collection of cement buildings and paved streets nor of cold, heartless people who would as soon do you harm as good. It is but the place of your interaction with all that lives within you, sharing the one heartbeat. The heartbeat of the world does not exist apart from God. The heartbeat of the world is thus alive and part of you. This heart connection is what we seek to return you to. This realization that the world is not a thing, as you are not a thing.” In “Unity”

Ch 20 p.139 20.17

Gd

“All that you now see are but symbols of what is really there before you, in glory beyond your deepest imaginings. Yet you persist in wanting only what your eyes can see and hands can hold. You call these things real and all else unreal.... Close your eyes on all that you have become accustomed to seeing. And you will see the light.”

Ch 3 p.26 3.5

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