

A Short HOMILY ON RETURNING TO THE DIVINE PRESENCE

Rev. AliceAnn

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Reflection:

*“The Love and Power of God is All that there is. And I AM
the Expression of that Love and Power--here and now.”*

Quote from Bishop Phelan:

When we have learned to accept that which is as the omnipresence, we begin to be aware of the presence of the divine as our own I AM Consciousness. By so doing, in that very moment, we remove ourselves from the effects of what is taking place in the outer world. As a result of this recognition we begin to be aware that our own individual consciousness is Universal Divine Consciousness at all times. In so doing we come into the further realization of how impossible it is for any experience to come from any source other than the One Divine Source. The I AM Consciousness is that source (CJP, Ch. 3, p. 53).

Finding the Divine Within:

The concept of Divine presence within (as well as without) is not a new concept, but rather a part of the Perennial Wisdom Teachings of old. In Transpersonal Psychology we realize that once someone has arrived at a certain stage of spiritual development, there may come a shift in consciousness from the pre-personal and personal level of self awareness to that of the trans-personal or other-centered awareness. Once the I has become aware of Other, a new state of consciousness begins to be planted in the mind/body awareness that now encompasses mind, body and spirit. The ‘Other’ here is not simply the presence of another personality, but rather, as William James (1902) has called it, “the presence of the More”. This, of course, is the Divine essence that Bishop Christopher Phelan*, Founder of the Circle of Divine Light, is speaking of. Thus the concept of Higher States of Consciousness, especially that which merges with Divine essence is well known in Transpersonal psychologies.

The Many Paths to The Divine:

In Zen Buddhism, they say that one is truly enlightened when one merges the small self into the larger Self of the All-Being. Only then can one come to a point of entering the last stages of nirvana (heaven). And In Celtic spirituality, they teach that the presence of the soul-self is viewed as a radiant aura surrounding the physical body; the physical body being encompassed by the Divine light which connects all other entities of Divinity with the One Divinity. Likewise, Hinduism has long known the inward paths to the Divine:

from the Upanishads:

“Self-knowledge has always been the theme of the Sages; and the Upanishads deal especially with the knowledge of the Self and also with the knowledge of God, because there is no difference between the Self and God. They are one and the same. That which comes out of the Infinite Whole must also be infinite; hence the Self is infinite. That is the ocean, we are the drops. So long as the drop remains separate from the ocean, it is small and weak; but when it is one with the ocean, then it has all the strength of the ocean. Similarly, so long as man believes himself to be separate from the Whole, he is helpless; but when he identifies himself with It, then he transcends all weakness and partakes of Its omnipotent qualities.”—Quoted from the first book of the **Isa** Upanishads

Practicing The Divine Within:

From Bishop Christopher’s teachings, we learn how to get ‘There’ from ‘Here’. We learn how to turn our human identification of self into the larger wisdom Self that is eternal and ever-present part of God-Consciousness. Although we cannot expect that enlightenment will immediately occur, we ‘can’ expect that once we have ‘knocked’ the ‘door will be opened’, and that is the Father’s promise to us—that in the secret places of our heart, our in-most being, we have the keys to the Kingdom and the Way to personal salvation. As Bishop Phelan says, “The more we become aware of the omnipresence, omnipotence and omniscience of our own divinity, the more quickly will

we be able to improve the quality of our discernment”. And that discernment is the recognition of the I-Am that we already are; the Divine Consciousness that is within, the True Self which is our soul and the Spark of God within.

From Rev. AliceAnn:

The Divine spark is the breath of life given to all mankind as part of the descent of man into flesh, but the soul is apart from that, although integrally connected. The soul is our eternal essence, our egg-self if you will, the luminous shell of Divine essence where our physical body resides. This is the journey of radiant life that we all share from life to life, personality to personality, realm to realm. Nothing on the earthplane can replace the ineffability of Beingness that this angelic Self is. It is in the acceptance of this higher truth that we become free; it is the knocking at the door of Self Divinity, that unlocks the Divine wisdom, the place where Source and Self meet in the Temple that is built without hands.

But how do we ‘return’ to this Divine Presence; how do we make manifest this perennial wisdom truth in this Age? Actually, it is no different than in Ages past, we meditate, we contemplate, we take time from our busy realities to look at the deeper reality of existence, of Divine life. We walk the path that Master Jesus, the Buddha, Krishna and many other Ascended Masters walked, and we increase our storehouse of knowledge – day by day – thought by thought – realization by realization. This is how we learn to live in enlightenment; how we recognize the omnipresence of God in our own experience on this earthplane. And now is the time! For, we are indeed in the end of an Age and we dare not tarry. It is definitely given to mankind to develop in his/her spiritual nature and to ascend to the throne of the one God.

*Note: Rt. Rev. Dr. Christopher Phelan’s text, “We Can Get There From Here” is a kind of handbook to realizing this path of awareness, offering serious students of Christian Mysticism an in-depth exploration of the age-old truths in a current context. Gifted as a healer/teacher, Bishop Phelan is no longer on this plain of existence, but has ascended to other plains of reality. He has left us the Aquarian Horizon Centre, parent organization of the Circle of Divine Light, a non-denominational, non-sectarian church without walls to further these teachings as we may.

With Love and the Father’s Peace to all Seekers of Higher Consciousness
Rev. AliceAnn
AHC/Circle of Divine Light

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