

WHAT IS LOVE ?

An excerpt from the essay Words of Power by Eugene Halliday.

LOVE is intelligent power working for the development of all its possibilities of action in such a way that they do not nullify each other. It is the will to infinite harmonious interaction, the will to the infinite increase of joyous interfunction of all possible forms of being.

As referring to such intelligent working power, 'Love' is the most powerful of all words. Millions of books have been written around the idea of love and what it has done, is doing, and will do for the world and for all creatures in it. Without the idea of love, expressed or implied, every book would read like dust in our mouths. Even the most coldly scientific book has for its motive and reason for existence, the love of its writer for its subject matter.

Hate is merely love frustrated of its object and determined to destroy that which has impeded its love. There is no hate in itself as such. Hate is always directed to avenge injured love, to sweep out of love's way whatever hinders its loving purpose. This is why there can be such energy in hate, because hate is love and love is the **infinite power of God** Himself working to fulfil His divine purpose.

In the word 'Hate' we can feel the crucifixion of Love power. In the word 'Love' we can feel the warm hearted benevolence of God, the will of the Creator for His creatures, for the increase of their capacity for life, the giving to them of His infinite abundance of joy of living.

When we use a word we trigger off associated words and their corresponding **ideas, feelings, emotions** and **impulses to action**. If we repeatedly utter, with all the emotion we can generate, the word 'Hate', we will find our mind becoming clouded with the memories of all the things we have ever hated, and not only our own, but also the things that our ancestors have hated, for the substance of our body, our living protoplasm, has recorded not only the things that have happened to us since we were born, but also deep within our unconscious mind the joys and sorrows of all our ancestors. This is why it is easy to be swamped by emotional reactions triggered by words, flooded with emotions so strongly that we cannot account for all their energy on the basis merely of our own individual experience.

Triggered by a word, a man may find himself thrown into such a whirlpool of rage that, before he can do anything about it, he has committed some act of violence that shortly he will deeply regret. Words then can be very powerful stimuli to action.

Writers in general, and poets especially, study the trigger power of words. So do salesmen, advertising copy writers and politicians. Without knowledge of the trigger power of words, no man can adequately present his case for the acceptance of his ideas, and no man can move another to action in predetermined directions.

'In the beginning was the Word', the Logos, the Rationale of all being. From this prime word of God, all other true words derive whatever power and authority they have. Insofar as this Word, this Logos, signifies the **harmonious interrelation of all things** this Word is a synonym of 'love'. We might legitimately start the Gospel of John with the words, 'In the beginning was Love, and Love was with God, and Love was God'. For God is Love and the Word of God is the Word of Love, and the Word that comes out of the mouth of God is the Spirit of Love, and this Spirit of Love vitalises and dynamises all living things, brings them from nothingness to somethingness, from death to life, from mechanical repetitiveness to living responsive immediacy.

Everywhere in the universe we see the operation of the infinite spirit of divine Love. Inside the atoms the nuclear protons attract the orbiting electrons; in the chemist's world molecules interact and cling to each other to make the building units of living organisms; in the plant world, strange, powerful invisible forces lift chemistry of the earth and atmosphere to raise the mighty trunks and branches of great trees; in the animal world love begets and cares for progeny; in the human world, great thinkers construct philosophies, scientists seek out the 'How' of the world's mysteries, artists paint the beauties of nature and of their creative imagination, poets sing of the power of Love and sacrifice.

Love is the most mysterious of all powers. We cannot see it, as it is in itself, with our physical eyes, but we can feel it within our souls, and we know its powerful healing effect in our lives, we can feel its warm, flowing energy coursing through our arteries. Always where we feel love we feel better for its presence. Always where Love is thwarted we feel that our very life is being damned and we struggle to remove the impedance to its flow.

We can feel that hate is only impeding love, and we can feel that cold indifference is not good for the circulation of our blood. We can feel processes that we can never adequately put into merely intellectual forms.

Feeling is love evaluating its own condition, love in process of self-examination, determining how much freedom of action and how much of impedance it has to face.

Emotion is feeling overflowing its boundaries, either to increase the flow of life's energies, or to battle against inhibiting forces imposed upon it from outside itself.

Feeling and **emotion** are **conditions of love**, evaluating and flowing out from the centre of the living being to encounter the world and all beings within it. We could draw the seed of a tree, a tree as large as the universe itself,

and call this seed the portal of infinite divine love through which must grow every living being in the whole of reality. This seed of love is eternally the doorway of universal joy, sprouting throughout infinite space to the continuous increase of cosmic harmony and the delight of all living beings.

What keeps man from sharing in this ever increasing delight is nothing but his erroneous belief in his negative separativity. What will save us from this negative separativity is the acceptance of the way of life demonstrated for us by Jesus Christ, the way of **intelligent self sacrifice**. What tends to keep us from following His example is lack of understanding of the principle on which His life was based.

Whenever we perform any act, we necessarily expend energy to some amount. We live in an infinite field of energy, the power of God. When we expend energy, the energy we put out of ourselves passes into the surrounding energy field and produces some kind of reaction, for all energy is responsive to interferences coming to it from outside itself and adjusts itself in some way to these interferences.

In classical physics we are told that to every action there is an equal and opposite reaction, but we must be very careful how we interpret this statement. It may apparently be true for the things of the gross material world, but it is not necessarily true for the world of free intelligent spirit. We know that by practice we can inhibit certain reactions that ordinarily tend to arise when we are subjected to certain kinds of external stimuli. There is no reason why, if we practice sufficiently, we should not altogether control our own being energies, so that no energy acting upon us from outside could force us to react. In oriental philosophy this attained condition of controlled non-reactivity is called the 'transparency of the wise'. This is the condition Jesus recommends us to attain when He tells us that when we are attacked we are to **"turn the other cheek"**.

Free spiritual intelligence does not have to react to energies that attack its organism from outside itself. It can determine for itself whether or not it will show a response to anything that happens to it. Free spiritual intelligence, the highest level of man's soul consciousness, is able to make itself absolutely transparent to any energy inputs from outside the organism it uses for its earthly expression. By so doing it places itself above all kinds of attack from the things of the material world.

To gain this freedom from reactivity, this 'transparency of the sage', this power to 'turn the other cheek', we must understand that spirit is eternal and indestructible, that we are ourselves spiritual beings although for a time resident in physical bodies. As spiritual beings we are **immortal**. Mortality belongs only to the material body and to ideas derived from it. It has no meaning for free spirit. When, by practice, we become able to remember our essential spirituality in each moment, fear begins to lessen in us.

Fear belongs to the state when our consciousness is identified with the idea of separative negativity. If we believe that we are separate from other beings and from God, we can believe that we are exposed to some form of attack from some other separative being. This belief makes us tend to defend our territory, our little zone of enclosed selfhood, and in the process of self defence, to anticipate possible invasion of our territory by a self defensive attack on our imagined enemy.

Here is a word of power worth remembering and worth believing with all the energy we can gather: **I AM AN ETERNAL SPIRITUAL INTELLIGENCE**. Remembering this and understanding it we can say at once, "I am an immortal being. My essential self is indestructible. Mortality refers only to my material body. It has no meaning for my essential **spiritual self**, which is God, which has never been, nor can ever be, separated from God".

God is Love. God is Spirit. My essential self is Spirit, is of God, participates of God's invulnerability to the things of the material world. Whatever may be done to my material body, as was done to the physical body of Jesus, yet my spirit and intelligence cannot be marred by it.

The physical material body, which we use on earth to gain experience of the world of mammon, is but a garment spun of that world's substance. If that garment is destroyed, my spiritual self is not destroyed with it, but is merely released to return into the spiritual world from which it came. In that spiritual world, like the prodigal son, my soul will be received once more into the arms of the eternal intelligent spirit who is my Father and Creator and original source.

With this word of power: I am one with God, who is Love, fear is cast out. God is infinite power. Against what finite powers shall I waste my time defending myself? If God will me to be in existence, then in existence I shall be. If He wills to withdraw me from the world of mammon matter, then I shall be withdrawn. In either case I shall remain what I am, a spiritual being, of good will, of Love, and of Truth, for of such is God's spirit, which I can never lose, **FOR IT IS MYSELF**.

All who believe in the One Supreme God who rules over and beyond all local territories, and in His power to incarnate His spirit, in Jesus Christ and in all of us, are saved absolutely, and are children of God. Here is a great word of power for all of us who believe in the **divine spirit**, and in its separateness from error: We are all children of the One Supreme God, and all inheritors of His kingdom

Perfect love of this One Supreme God casts out fear, and this perfect love is itself a gift from that God to everyone who wills to receive it.