

Divine Heritage

By S. Evette Gardner



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Boston, Massachusetts

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Special Note

The words and expressions *First Cause*, *God*, *Life*, *Spirit*, *Truth*, *Reality*, *Inner Witness*, *Indwelling Self* and *Self*, as they are used here, refer to exactly the same thing (the essence of All that truly exists). They are used interchangeably in accordance with the context of the speech and with consideration to how each word is generally regarded in the English lexicon. (Refer to the Glossary, beginning on page 96, for further reference.)

CHAPTER ONE: The Magnificence of “I Am”

If you reflect on yourself, within yourself, with committed devotion long enough, you will eventually come upon an indwelling-something whom you will promptly recognize simply as the witnesser of your life. Throughout all time, All who, having felt the presence of this indwelling entity (and who), have questioned It as to Its identity have received the same answer. No matter who you are, where you come from, whatever your social, economic, religious or philosophical background, no matter where you fall along the spectrum from supposed simpleton to purported guru, the answer is the same for all who ask the question, “who am I (really)? The timeless response to this query is ever, “I Am.”

Now you could come out of yourself discouraged by this answer, put off by such an ambiguous response. After all what kind of answer is, “I Am,” as a statement of identity? You might think it too abstruse to even merit further consideration and so elect to dismiss your whole encounter with your deepest Self as having merely been a momentary flight of your imagination. But stop for a moment and consider this: how does one define an infinite nature? The very definition of *define* is “to fix or mark lines of limit”; therefore, to define a thing is to impose limits on it. The only way to override the intrinsic limitation of words and their corresponding definitions is to phrase them in a manner which may be understood infinite ways. So go back and reflect on this identifying statement of your Self, to yourself, again. “I Am.” If you repeat these words to yourself as you ponder over their meaning, it doesn’t take long to appreciate just how magnificently these two simple words convey infiniteness. The phrasing of these words is so

indistinct that they could be expressive of any and everything; and yet note how they still seem to communicate something very fundamental. “I” – the one who Is; “Am” – exist. These two words together represent a declaration of existence; they serve as a demonstration of Self Awareness and portray a nature which is completely unbound. It doesn’t get any simpler, and yet more powerful than this. The genius of this two word testimonial is unsurpassed in both meaning and impact. “I Am,” is the ultimate announcement of Life. Try as you might and you will never be able to rival its eloquence and at the same time capture the nature of Being.

So who are you (really)? You Are this *I Am* just spoken of; Self Aware (or omniscient); Real and Alive (or omnipotent); and unbound (or omnipresent). These qualifiers may not seem descriptive of you, as a personality, but they are most certainly illustrative of the You who is Spirit. Your fundamental nature is Spirit. Despite appearances you are not a physical being, nor are you an energetic being, nor are you even a mental being. You are none of these things, yet you are all of them, only infinitely greater. You are Spirit. You are something so awesome you are both indefinable and unexplainable. This is your True nature. This is the Real You which never changes, never dies, was never even born but just Is. And that Witness who dwells within you is the indisputable testifier to this Truth which we all behold.

We all encounter the same “I Am” and it really is no great wonder as to why. We all receive the same testimony of Truth because we All share the same witness.

Jesus professed: *The first of all commandments is, Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is ONE Lord:
And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul,
and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment.
And the second is like namely this, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.
There is none other commandment greater than these.*
- King James Bible; Mark 12:29

There is no greater commandment than this for All Is One.

We all have a Higher Self, or an oversoul part of our being, a conduit. All Higher Selves are connected as one being, All humans are connected as one being. We are literally the same being.
- Thomas Benedict; “Through the Light – The Road to Death”

*The non-dual and resplendent Lord is hidden in all beings. All - pervading,
the inmost Self of all creatures, the impeller to actions, abiding in all things,
He is the Witness, the Animator and the Absolute...*
- Svetasvatara Upanishad; chapter 6, verse 11

This witness is unaffected by the traumas and delights of the phenomenal experience. It is untouched by the tides of change; and unattached to the infatuations of the personality It watches through and over. But though It be unaffected, untouched and unattached, It is nevertheless affective, involved and engaged. It is the unbothered sympathizer; the unmoved mover and the permissive redeemer. It is free yet fully engrossed, aloof yet all feeling, constant yet transformational. These may seem like irreconcilable contradictions but they are not, for one is the Author and the other the character. One is the Visionary and the other the vision. One is the

Reality and the other the impression. The One, being All, is both cause and effect; Alpha and Omega. Its “eyes,” “ears,” and “hands” are present everywhere. It is in the sky and in the earth, in the trees and in the rocks, in the water and in the air, in the birds and in you... everywhere, at every turn, in every nook and cranny and in every open space, It Is. There is no point in this universe where It is not. Its Word is effusive, and evidence of Its expressions resonate from every form, figure and impression. Its declaration is ever, “I Am;” and we feel this pronouncement as a call to action. It is this divine urge which we generally refer to as desire.

Desire is the architect of all form. Form is the product of function and function is the directive which ensues from the pronounced affirmation of Spirit proclaiming that It Is!

CHAPTER ONE: CONCLUDING TIDBITS

Spirit

Spirit Is, but there is no reason for Its Being for nothing has caused Spirit to Be. Spirit is All there Is. Spirit is the only true Reality of existence. Beyond It, there is nothing else. Spirit is *Its own cause for Being*.

Spirit is the First Cause and Last Effect of All for not only do All things of appearance evolve from Spirit, All things of appearance resolve back to the source from which they first emerged. Spirit is that Source. Spirit is “the way, the Truth and the Light.” Spirit is All that is truly Real. There was never a time when Spirit was not. Spirit is eternal, the same today as It was yesterday and will be tomorrow. For, being the First Cause, Spirit is above and beyond All effect. Only that which is permanent can truly be Real and Spirit is All that is permanent. Nothing acts upon It; therefore, Spirit is undisturbed, changeless, peaceful and consonant. It is independent of All the aspects *of It* which are relative and subordinate to It. Appearance is tangible, fluctuant and relative. Spirit is intangible, constant and Absolute. What is relative changes according to superior influences. What is absolute is changeless for there is no superior influence. All things move according to the Will of that which Itself is unmovable. Spirit is the unmoved mover. It being All that truly Is, It is the One Source of All that appears.

Reality is One. Nothing exists apart from anything else. *All Is One for All Is Life and Life Is One*. There is no such thing as “not I;” All is “I.” The appearance of Life is but a reflection of Its true Self. All things are a reflection of You for essentially you are Life / You are Spirit. The diversity observed of appearance is merely a testament to your true infiniteness for beyond the masks of All the countless appearances is the One Being who has caused All this seemingness to be. So when you say “not I,” you must learn to understand this to mean that it is not that anything is separate from you, rather that there is a higher part of you which this “not I” aspect is subordinate to. Resolve to realize this distinction.

Things may be *of You* (from You, attributable to You), but nevertheless *not You* in that they are not the essence of who You are, but are mere facets, aspects or expressions of you. Just as your fingers or your eyes are *of you* (from you, attributable to you), but not you for they are neither the whole of you, nor even that which is most supreme of you. Your fingers and your eyes are aspects of you which are subjugated to a higher part of you. In the same way, your body and soul are merely aspects of You which are born of and relative to the Real You – Spirit!

Special but No Special Favorite

The same indwelling something within you which watches over and through you so attentively and with such consideration for every detail of each and every aspect of your experience is the same indwelling something within All. Though you, as a soul / as a personality, are indeed special, you are by no means a special favorite for All (at the last and from the start) is One (in Spirit). The same mindfulness, attentiveness and consideration given to you by this Inner Witness, is the same mindfulness, attentiveness and consideration given to All. All Is One for All Is Life and Life Is One.

God’s Love

God’s love is unconditional. *His* love for you today is the same as it was yesterday and will be tomorrow. The same love that loves you in your righteousness is the same love that loves

you in your wrongs. God is All loving. *He* is not a Being of vengeance. God does not hate. *He* is ALWAYS loving. In fact, God does not vacillate in any manner. *He* is eternal, timeless, unchanging. *He* is not a critic over here and a bestower of favoritism over there. God is not partial, *He* is impartial. *His* “heart” does not break. *He* is ALWAYS undisturbed. *He* is the Inner Witness of All, fully involved yet above All effect. God does not issue judgment; God does not dole out punishment. This, however, does not mean that God will step in and excuse you from the consequences of your actions and intentions (for the Law of karma is always in effect); it simply means that *His* love is ALWAYS available to you regardless of time, place or circumstance.

God does not ever sentence you to hell. And there are no fallen angels in waiting ready to swoop in and brutalize you the instant God turns *His* back on you because *He* is disheartened by the massive weight of your sins. No matter how plentiful or horrendous your sins may be, God never turns away from you. Have you ever known the witness within you to ever abandon you? It never even blinks, so to have It desert you outright is unthinkable. It is this inner Witness which is the very God which so many have searched for throughout mankind’s history. This Witness, though engaged in All that you think and do, is unbiased about All that you think and do. *He* does not censure. *He* will not ever send you to hell for your imperfections for hell does not really even exist. Hell is not a “place” of purgatory. Hell is of your own mental making. Hell is a mental state which then gets reflected in your experience. But God does not inflict this state upon you. You create this state yourself, and you alone have the power to unmake it.

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