Power of Humility Dr. M.W. Lewis San Diego, 10-4-59

The subject this morning: Power of Humility – Power of Humility.

We can see in all scriptures that humbleness and lack of egoism is stressed very much because of its importance; because all power comes from humility – from no other place. Because in humbleness and humility, you are one with God and He is the Source of all Power. Therefore, this subject of humility, humbleness, guilelessness, is very, very important. The ego must go. The ego must go. He's pretty well entrenched. It's hard to dislodge him. There is one power that will dislodge him, and that's the Power of God's Love.

Our Master has these words to say about humility, which I must give you at this time, "Humbleness is the vastness of God." "Humbleness is the vastness of God, and egotism is a little point on which the mercy-rain of God does not gather." And so, as on a mountain peak no rain can gather, so also on the up thrust ego, no waters of God's Love can remain. To me, that's a great thing, because there are so many egotistical people, and they have no reason to be. If they'd just consider a little bit, the immensity of the universe, and what God has done, and is doing, and that no one can fathom His Immensity, it seems to me the ego must recede. It must decrease. Master used to say these words in another way. He said, "The mercy-rain of God's Love does not gather on the mountain peak of egoism, but is found abundantly in the valley of humbleness beneath."

That's where all true children of God want to dwell, because they know these truths through experience. They have realized that God is Love, and they know that in Him we find all-fulfillment. They do not care about things of the outward world, except to play the part as God would have them play. They are not subject, they are not conditioned, any longer, in their thinking about this, and that unimportant things. They are conditioned now, only one way, and that is that "God is," and He is all, and they have found the way to entice Him, easily, is through humbleness, because God is the most humble of all.

Having all, having all things except our love, He says nothing. He is quiet. He is very humble. He has made laws, which take care of those who disobey them. But behind those laws, in that Great Spirit of God, is His Love, which we all

want, and must have, sometime. Why not now? Because He is in the Now. He is not in the future. Let us discard the future, or the past, whatever it is. God is now. We must find Him. We find Him through humbleness.

Master goes on to say, "My, my Master, Sri Yukteswarji, had destroyed his ego. Therefore, I knew God was with him." How wonderful that is. The Soul knows, if we can be still enough long enough, the Soul knows, knows through whom God is working. But we are so restless at times, that the Soul Power cannot tell us. That's all. That's why the Master put this in here. That his great teacher, the channel which he followed back home to God, had destroyed his ego. Therefore, Master knew that God was with him.

Therefore, he who, he who thinks he is a big something – who thinks he is something – how can he teach? Or how can he give others God? You must have that Great Power of God in you. You must know that He is the One who is the Doer. Not you. He is the Sole Doer. You must know that. Then you can help others. Then you can give others God. You do not give others God. God gives Himself to them through many, many avenues. If you happen to be one of the, of the little channels, it's a wonderful thing. There's nothing greater than to do God's work, and know that somehow He is using you. That's the greatest thing.

And so, humbleness means we must first realize God through humbleness. Then, if He wants to use us, all right. If He wants to give us a vacation, who cares? It's wonderful, as long as we have Him, and know He is the One. Master has said these words. "He who gives honor to himself receives dishonor." That's a great thing, isn't it? "But he who does not want honor, God gives him the greatest honor, He gives him His Love." Remember those words.

This world with all its trouble and conflict will pass away. Let those who enjoy fighting, let them enjoy it. But we do not want that. We want the Eternal Presence of God in which there is All-fulfillment – no inharmony, no conflict. That's what we want. That is our birthright. And yet, how difficult it is to realize that, and not be caught up in this ordinary living, with its "useless values," as they say. There is no value in this outward reality, outward non-reality, because it passes away. The value is in that which is Eternal. And the greatest thing is, having that we will be eternally with the One Eternal Father; never to leave His side. It seems far remote, but it is not so. It is so. Let us realize that.

And so, herein, in this little statement which I have given you, which the Master used to quote so much, and so forcefully: "He who seeks honor receives dishonor. He does not seek honor," but we might add, wishes to serve others in humbleness, "God gives him the greatest honor, He gives him His Love." And so, in that one statement, the realization of it, I must say, lies the Power of humility and humbleness – in that one statement. Because, if God gives you His Love, you have everything; you needn't worry about this life, or what you receive, or your family, or your friends, or anything. If you have God, you have His Love, and that is what has made the world – sustains it – and that will sustain you – not only now, not only during this life, but eternally. Therein lies the power of humility and humbleness – that you receive God.

God is not a respecter of person's means. And this is a wonderful thing. He is not a respecter of ego. If He was, we'd be in a mess, wouldn't we – with so many people caught up in ego consciousness. Very few get out. I think the proportion is one in a hundred thousand. But let's be in that one hundred thousand, and we can do it, if we want God enough. He will respond. One reference from our Bible, substantiating these words of our Master; Matthew, the 23rd Chapter, the 12th Verse, "Whosoever shall exalt himself shall be abased; and he that shall humble himself shall be exalted." Same words from the Hindu philosophy, from the Vedas, from our Master's teaching, we find right in our own scriptures.

Now, a comparison between egoism and humbleness; the person caught up in egoism remains within his limited circle – his limited circle of the powers of ego, that's all – senses, mind, intellect, a little reasoning, and such things. You cannot conceive, and perceive God with those powers. You can perceive Him only through the power of the Soul's Intuition, or Love. And so the man of egotistic tendencies, he keeps himself limited, very limited.

But the man of humbleness, what does he do? His consciousness is not limited. His consciousness is ever-expansive into Christ Consciousness, or Cosmic Consciousness. Why, because we're made in the Image of God, and as such we can perceive God as the All-pervading Cosmic Consciousness from which all things have come, and to which, and, into which all things will recede. Or we can supersede this little narrow ego consciousness by being humble, because when we are humble, our consciousness is not limited. That seems strange, doesn't it? The retiring person, the person pure in heart, a person so humble that you might think that they have no power at all; but in that humbleness is Supreme Power, because when you are humble, your consciousness begins to expand from whence it came – from God's Power, from His All-inclusive Cosmic Consciousness.

Now, that'll give you a different idea of humbleness. Don't think humbleness is being a coward. No. It's being the wisest person in existence, because your consciousness begins, that moment, to expand, and finally, reaches God's Consciousness. Here comes Nathaniel, said Jesus, who is without guile. He was humble, and because he is without guile, he will know heaven. He will see the heavenly angels, which means the Forces of having, Heaven, descending and ascending. He will know God. Why, because he has observed the law. He's followed the law. The law of humbleness is that your consciousness will expand into God's Consciousness. Which do you want? You must be humble.

Also, egotism reveals the smallness of egotistic people. They try to make others inferior – at least feel inferior. Sri Yukteswarji used to say, that "they try to make themselves of greater stature by cutting off the heads of others." And that's what an egotistical person does. But a humble person, a humble person sees equality in all. Why not? We are all God's children. We are made in His Image. But it takes the greatest humbleness to know that. You can know it theoretically, but you cannot know it through realization until you are it. Until you are one with God's Love. Then it's impossible to be mean, or small, or egotistical to any other child of God. These are wonderful truths in this comparison between egotism and humbleness.

Now, another point is, that the egotist depends upon his limited power, while the man of humility, he recognizes that he knows nothing without God. And so he doesn't depend upon himself, but he unites himself with God, and thereby he receives God's Great Power. He is wise – much wiser than the egotistical person. But perhaps the wisest person is the humble man who realizes that God is the Sole Doer, and that everything he has comes from God. Everything he has. Those near and dear to him, or his possessions, even – or especially his state of consciousness, and his calmness, and once in awhile, his freedom which he feels that is because he recognizes God as the Sole Doer. And instead of attaching himself to his limited ego, he gladly acknowledges God, and is so humble, that he becomes one with God's Love. That's the greatest person that is living with us, is the one who realizes God as the Sole Doer. He has no trouble mixing with people, because he knows they are God's children just like he is. And, if he does not do that, he is not humble. They go together. And having that, realizing that God is the Sole Doer, it does take a great responsibility off of your shoulders. It's a wonderful thing.

I remember meeting the Master, first time. And I went in to see him, skeptically. And when I sat before him he said, "Will you always love me as I love you?" And although I was skeptical, I couldn't resist the Power of God's Love through him, and I said, "Yes, I will." And he wrapped his hands around, he says, "Fine, I take charge of your life." And I felt the weight, responsibility, lift from my shoulders. I didn't realize what I was in for, but the end was wonderful. I didn't realize "I take charge of your life," what it meant. But I found out. But the end was all right. And, of course, it's the Grace of God that we are all drawn to this path of Self-Realization.

And God's Love is not limited to any saint on earth. It's limited only by His Omnipresence. And so, the Master's Omnipresence, and the Omnipresence of God, through all the great saints, is with us now. And what he said to me, applies to each one of you. Utilize it. Realize it. Have faith in God and the channel He has sent to us.

Now, I have a little reference about being humble, and how the humble devotee realizes: "Alone I can do nothing, but when Thou art with me, O Father, all things are possible." All the saints are that way, especially Master Mahasaya, whom the Master told me about long before it was printed in this book. He said, "He was the most humble person I ever saw." And this is what we read, "The humility of Master Mahasaya and all other saints springs from a recognition of their dependence on the Lord as the sole life and judge." Not just the sole judge, but the sole life. Our life is because God is in us. "Because the very nature of God is Bliss, and the man in attunement with Him experiences a Native Boundless Joy." If you're feeling better all the time, if things do not bother you so much, realize you are nearing God's Omnipresent Love. That's the surest sign. But, if things are getting on your nerve, and you're getting worse, and more fidgety, watch out. Turn around, go the other way. And so, "The first of the Passions of the Soul and the will is Joy." Realize that. If every day you are not feeling Joy, be more humble, because, if you feel Joy, that's the Witness that God's Love is with you.

Now how can we become humble? How can we become humble? First we must chasten ourselves. We must correct ourselves, and keep correcting ourselves. Keep at it. We must chasten ourselves. That's the first greatest rule. We must change. We must change. We must discipline ourselves, and stop a, stop the negative gossip, which is so easy, unless you watch out. We must change. As the little girl wrote an essay in school about her, her parents, she says, "We get them when they're so old, it's very difficult to change their habits."

So we must watch out for that. We must change. We must discipline ourselves. And this is really true.

Now the next, the next important thing is to serve others. That's the greatest thing. I know certain disciples, they have their little faults, but they do serve others so wonderfully that you can feel God in them. I don't care what their little faults are. They are serving others. Why? Because their heart is right, and the Love of God is in their heart. That's the second thing.

And the third thing is to realize you are not this body. Not this little, changeable body, which passes away, and which gives us a mess of trouble. We are not that, because when we turn within, we feel, we feel the Great Love of the Infinite Father. That's what we are. So we must realize that. Not on Sunday mornings, only, or in the meditation service – always – now! Make it indelibly fixed in your consciousness – "*I am not this body*. *I am the Love of the One Father, which doesn't change, and nobody can shake me. I can stand alone.*" As Master used to say, "I can stand unshaken through the crash of breaking worlds." It looked a little while ago, as if we were going to get that. It looks a little better now. Let us keep praying that it pass, that we not have to go through that. We are God's children, He hears our prayers. He hears the prayers of the humble. Let us keep on.

And so, those are the three main, the things, which we should do. But the greatest, the greatest remover of ego is – the greatest remover of ego is the channel through which God has come to you. That's the greatest thing. And the channel to us, most of us, is His Presence as he came as our guru, our beloved Master. That's the channel through which God came to us. That's the greatest remover of ego. Why? Because the guru is the most humble of humble. He is the humblest of anyone, because God's Love is in him. The True Teacher, the True Preceptor, is the epitome of humbleness. Why? Because he knows God's Love is the only solution of all problems.

Master used to always say, "When people hate me, even." Even people hated one like the Master, he says, "When they hate me, I give them love, and wait for them to change." He says, "If love will not work, words are useless." So do not talk too much to people who dislike you. Leave them alone. Give them love. Let God change them. That's the way to do it. And so the greatest thing to take away egoism is to follow the channel which God has sent to you. Follow that. God does not speak, does He? He's silent. But He comes to us through the channel, and that's what we must realize. And so the Invisible God is quiet, and yet He's All-powerful. That's what we must realize. Perhaps those of us who talk too much will listen now, and talk less, and you'll hear more of God. That's the point. God is silent.

There's a little story comes to my mind. I must tell it to you, because if I don't, I will, I won't feel right, because it's really quite a little story about silence, and it applies to clergymen. Naturally it's all right, if you tell it on yourself I understand.

And so the point is this. There was this clergyman. He was given to longwindedness, and he had been talking for an hour and a half up to that time. Then suddenly he said, he said these words. He says, "I looked up at the mountains as I came along and I said, 'mighty though you be, you must pass away, but my soul will not pass away'." Then he says, "I gazed at the ocean," and he says, "Vast as you are, you eventually must dry up, but not I." And so, he wondered why there was little merriment spread over the congregation after he got home, and was thinking it over.

So there you have it about silence. Silence is a great thing, even in outward living; even in preaching. But I try not to be too long-winded, and if I am, I want you to remind me of this story, because I have no right to be that way.

And so, going on now that we've got that off of our chest, so to speak, the point is this; when God has sent you the channel, realize this. When God has sent you the channel, and you feel it in your heart, you'll feel it, you will find God, if you follow in humbleness. Now, these are eternal truths. Those of you, who are following Self-Realization, remember Self-Realization was sent by the Eternal Father as a way for some of us to find Him – to find His Love. Now, if you follow in obedience, and humbleness, you will find God, without question of a doubt. These are important things. And, if you remain in tune with God the Father through the channel, and follow to the best of your ability – especially, with humbleness – you will see God. And you will see His hand working at every step you take; at every bend in the road, you'll see Him guiding you. Such is the Power of God, and such is the Truth of a True Channel.

There are many teachers, but there is one channel, which God has sent you. Follow it, and you'll know you are following by the Love you feel in your heart. These are wonderful things, and so reassuring. And those who have followed, sincerely – never mind their faults – they will testify that God is always with them. That is our birthright. We must do that.

And so, finally, meditation is the way. Meditation takes you into the Presence of God. And in His Presence you'll receive only Love. And Love is the Supreme Power of the Universe. All the planets are pulled together, drawn together – the rhythm in the universe is because of the Attractive Force of God's Love. And in that Attractive Force is His Great Consciousness. The Feeling aspect of His Consciousness is Love. And so, all things are drawn together by meditation.

And God sends certain channels to people. And so, we are united, through the link of the great channels of Self-Realization, and with Christ. We are united to God, if you'll just realize it. And you can attain salvation much easier, if you'll follow a channel God has sent for His children. Let us realize that. Follow in humbleness. God is the Sole Doer, remember. You can do nothing. But, if His Grace descends upon you, if you receive, as the great Nanak said, "The glance of His Grace," all things are possible. Without it, you are useless, worthless, because those things, that state of consciousness passes away. But not Love within your heart, does not pass away. Therefore, the words of the great Nanak, "Though I'm known throughout universe upon universe times ten, and I'm thought well of by all, unless I receive the glance of Thy Grace, I am worse than a worm, considered so by others." These are truths, because God's Grace, His Love, is the only Reality. The other amounts to nothing. Let us remember Guru Nanak's words.

And so, finally, this is a wonderful short passage I give you, but it contains so much. We must decrease the ego. We must stop putting values in worldly things. The ego must decrease; the Spirit must increase. Right from our own Scripture we have this testimony. From St. John, 3rd Chapter, the 30th Verse, "He must increase..." He is Spirit, "I must decrease." Therefore, St. John knew the value of getting rid of the ego. He understood that perfectly.

Master said, "I will run this organization from the other side." How could he say that? Because he was One with the Omniscience of God. But you cannot receive God's Guidance through the channel He has sent to us, unless you decrease the ego. And when you decrease the ego, the Spirit will increase, and you will be truly humble, and receive the Guidance of your Father. That is spiritual law. That was not instituted by any saint. That's the way God made it. Just like the law of mathematics. Two and two make four. So, if you follow Silent God

through the channel He sends to you, and you'll know it by the feeling of Love in your heart, then the ego will decrease, and the Spirit will increase, and God's Love will be yours.