

GUIDANCE ON THE WAY SERIES ONE

This is a free chapter provided by LightPulsations.com

§-1.

There followed the Jewish Festival, and Jesus traveled up to Jerusalem.

By the sheep gate in that city there is a pool with five arcades, which in the Aramaic is called Bethzatha. A number of disabled people, blind, lame and withered, used to lie in these arcades waiting for an angel to stir the water. And there was a man there who had suffered from his trouble for thirty-eight years.

Jesus, seeing him lying there and knowing that he had been ill for a long time, said to him: "Have you the will to become well again?"

"Sir," said the sick man, "I have no one to put me in the pool when the water is stirred; and while I am on the way someone else gets in before me."

Jesus said: "Rise, pick up your stretcher and walk." And immediately the man was cured, picked up his stretcher and walked.

§-2.

Commentary.

Jesus writes about the different experiences that we can become involved in during Transformation of our consciousness, beginning at the level of the sensual being through to the intellectual level of truth. However, all these experiences are stages in rebirth that lead to freedom from the Illusion.

At the sheep's-gate in Bethzatha there was a water pool, which was surrounded by five arcades, and in these arcades were disabled people, blind, lame and withered.

The five arcades are a metaphor for the five senses, and the disabled people lie close to their five senses, but they have knowledge of a greater teaching and perceive its truth, but they are trapped in the Illusion and the sensual world.

The water in the pool is calm and miraculous, because at times the water is stirred by an angel. When the water is stirred, anyone entering the pool will experience a change in consciousness, now knowing the power of Truth, and at the same time the water washes away all the sensual desires and knowledge that chain them to the outer world.

In the parable, the angel represents the higher consciousness which draws the lower consciousness to that level of Light.

Jesus comes to the pool and sees a man on a stretcher who was lying in an arcade and was unable to get to the pool when the water was stirred.

We are told that the man had been at the pool for thirty-eight years lying on the same stretcher, the meaning here being that for all these years he had been lying in the bed of his beliefs and attitudes, unable to work and make the changes that would allow him to reach the stirred water and the level of his inner Light. He was unable to stand and walk in the truth.

Everyone is gathered around the water, waiting to receive the truth, but because they lie in one of the five arcades, the sensual world, they are too close to and dependent on the outer world and its knowledge.

The man tells Jesus that he can't get to the pool quickly enough when the water is stirred and doesn't have anyone who can help him reach it.

Here, Jesus is the Light that has come into the world of the senses, so he replaces the angel and now is the Essence that stirs the water in that man. Recognizing that the man had persisted for so long in trying to become free from the lower nature of his being and had faith that he would become purged of his false beliefs and attitudes, Jesus raises him into his Light.

"Take up your stretcher and walk."

The man immediately begins to walk in the truth and carries his stretcher, which was once his burden of false beliefs and attitudes.

We have to reflect on this parable relative to seeing how our attitudes and beliefs are keeping us apart from becoming united with our inner Light Essence and reaching the Truth we desire to walk in.

While we still lie in the Illusion, we stay close to the sensual part of our being. Here we live in the fullness of the worldly knowledge believing that we experience all the answers to life.

And in great illusion we believe what we are told; thinking that this great body of knowledge called "science" is infallible and will deliver us from all pain and suffering.

So we lie close to the world and our senses, even if we happen to glimpse something greater that will lead us to both inner and outer freedom.

However, for such a long time, we lay in this bed of Illusion, waiting for something to enter our consciousness and lift us out of the repetitive nature of life.

But nothing happens and we always miss the opportunity, little realizing that we have to develop our being through understanding, by working to change our attitudes and beliefs. This means we need Faith.

Only then, when the Light appears through the opening we have created, is it that the Light Essence draws our new state of being into its Light, and casts aside all the old worldly beliefs and attitudes. Then, as Jesus said: "Go and sin no more, lest something worse befalls you."

To sin is to forget, to become lazy and live close to the sensual side of your worldly nature.