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The Principle of Creation

EVERY GENERATION asks the same vital questions about God, man and his destiny but each puts them in some special form. When in 1966 the bishops of the Roman Catholic Church in the Netherlands issued a new and very unusual type of catechism for the laity, among the questions they raised were: "What is the point of this world?" "How did our life begin?" "Is it an accident that things strive upward through such new and wonderful phases—existence, life, feeling, thought?" "Are we then to believe that human history, past, present and future, the whole evolution of the universe, with its pain and anxiety, its loves and joys, and its final end, is a meaningless jest?" "How can we harmonize all the sickness, disappointments and cruelty of this world with an infinitely good origin?"¹

Similar questions have been raised and pondered through the centuries. The prophets and priests of the Hebrew Bible wrestled with them. So have Christian theologians and philosophers of

¹ *A New Catechism*, Herder and Herder, N.Y., 1967, pp. 4, 9, 11, 12, 17.

religion. Earlier, Greeks from Socrates to Plato to Plotinus considered these questions. Nor were they overlooked by Hindu saints and Moslem sages. Even today these same questions are still being asked by Christians and non-Christians, theists and humanists, dogmatists and doubters.

Regardless of one's particular religious faith or lack of it, every individual sooner or later asks himself certain fundamental questions about human nature and destiny. Theology itself is merely the systematic and constructive consideration of these basic queries. A man must find his place in the society of which he is a member. He must relate himself in a positive fashion to the wider universe surrounding him. In short, he must come to terms with God.

According to Professor Emil Brunner of Zurich, "The first word of the Bible is the word about the Creator and creation. But that is not simply the first word with which one begins in order to pass on to greater, more important matters. It is the primeval word, the fundamental word supporting everything else. Take it away and everything collapses. Indeed if one rightly understands that which the Bible means by the Creator, he has rightly understood the whole Bible. Everything else is involved in this one word."²

POLARITY: CREATOR AND CREATION

An in-depth study of the meaning of creation would suggest answers to the basic questions regarding the Creator posed by the ancient and modern religions. By understanding the relationship of Creator and creature in its many ramifications, one can discover not only the reality and power of God, but also the nature and destiny of man, the value and purpose of the universe, the significance of human history, and the reasons for our hope of eternal life.

Creation relates the human to the divine. It connects human and cosmic purpose. It brings into clear focus the personal and the transpersonal, joining together the reasons why man acts and

² Emil Brunner, *Our Faith*, Charles Scribner's Sons, N.Y., 1936, pp. 4, 5.

aspires as well as the inner causes behind the varied phenomena of nature. The Hebrew Bible (the foundation for Jewish, Christian and Islamic religion) opens with the verse, "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth." In the Apostles' Creed, the first article is "I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth." In this Hebraic-Christian tradition, God is the ever-active Creator, an infinite and invisible Spirit who fashioned the universe in the light of His perfect reason and holy will. Wherever one looks, he beholds the handiwork of God. Whether we read the creation story in Genesis, the nature hymns in the Psalms or the majestic poetry of the theophany in Job, we are taught that behind and throughout everything visible man can sense the presence of a divine reality.

If this be true, the universe reflects the personality of God in much the same way that our facial expressions, gestures and overall appearance reflect our inner nature and attitude. In that sense, the universe becomes God's body. The temporal manifests the trans-temporal or eternal. With what then, does man sense the trans-temporal, the metaphysical—is it done with just our physical eyes? The Beatitudes teach, "Blessed are the pure in heart for they shall *see* God." It is an inner quality, an inner eye, that allows man to sense the living God.

The question then—which was posed among learned theologians during the High Middle Ages—is "Can man achieve this beatific vision directly in its full splendor or merely in an indirect manner?" The Franciscan theologians, such as Saint Bonaventura, declared that we can see God face to face, here and now. Being itself, being in its fullness or being in any of its concrete forms, represents an accurate revelation of the infinite. What occurs in time as a whole and time in any of its various segments provides a full and convincing proof for the existence of the one God of love, beauty and power.

Dominican theologians, however, approached this cosmological question in a different manner. Following in the steps of Saint Thomas Aquinas, these men claimed that the universe provides only indirect revelations of the divine presence, heeding the Bibli-

cal warning that no man has ever seen God. That is, one can only reason from the finite and the temporal to the infinite and the eternal by means of analogy. To quote Augustine,

And what is this God? I asked the earth and it answered 'I am not He'; and all things that are in the earth made the same confession. I asked the sea and the deeps and the creeping things, and they answered: 'We are not your God; seek higher.' I asked the heavens, the sun, the moon, the stars and they answered: 'Neither are we God whom you seek.' And I said to all the things that throng about the gateways of the senses: 'Tell me of my God, since you are not He. Tell me something of Him.' And they cried out in a great voice: 'He made us.' My question was my gazing upon them, and their answer was their beauty.³

Much later, the Puritans in Great Britain formalized and systematized their concept of God. In 1640, at a crucial stage in this movement, the Westminster Assembly issued a theological statement which became a classic Protestant definition. The Presbyterian divines declared:

There is but one only living and true God, who is infinite in being and perfection, a most pure spirit, invisible, without body, parts, or passions, immutable, immense, eternal, incomprehensible, almighty, most wise, most holy, most free, most absolute, working all things according to the counsel of his own immutable and most righteous will, for his own glory; most loving, gracious, merciful, long-suffering, abundant in goodness and truth, forgiving iniquity, transgression, and sin; the rewarder of them that diligently seek him; and

³ F.J. Sheed, *The Confessions of St. Augustine*, Sheed & Ward, N.Y., 1943, Bk. X, sect. 6.

withal most just and terrible in his judgments, hating all sin, and who will by no means clear the guilty.⁴

The previous opinions intimate precisely what *Divine Principle*⁵ states: that God is perceived both indirectly and directly. We can perceive God indirectly through nature, but in a much more direct manner through man. Man was created in God's image. God's likeness is in man. For theologians, this, of course, is not a new concept. As the Russian Orthodox philosopher Vladimir Lossky points out in his book, *The Mystical Theology of the Eastern Church*, the early Church Fathers sought to find God's image in man and variously defined it as the soul, the intellect, the power of inner self-determination, as well as man's position as lord of the terrestrial world. In addition, it was identified with the gift of immortality, the ability of knowing God and the possibility of sharing the divine nature.

According to one of the early Eastern Fathers, St. Gregory of Nyssa,

His reason for creating human life is simply this—because He is good. Such being the nature of God, and such the one reason why he undertook the creation of man, there were to be no half measures when He set about to show forth the power of his goodness. He would not give a mere part of what was His own, and grudge to share the rest.⁶

For Unification theology⁷ the fact that man was created in the divine image indicates that God had applied the same principle operating within Himself directly in the creation of man and indirectly in the creation of the universe. By recognizing the

⁴ *A Handbook of Christian Theology*, The World Publishing Co., N.Y., 1958, p. 148.

⁵ *Divine Principle*, Holy Spirit Association for the Unification of World Christianity, Washington, D.C., 1973.

⁶ Vladimir Lossky, *The Mystical Theology of the Eastern Church*, J. Clarke, London, 1973, pp. 118-119.

⁷ The theological explication of *Divine Principle*.

fundamental principle of creation inherent in both man and the cosmos, we can comprehend the basic nature of God.

Looking at ourselves we discover that man is both heart⁸ and body, inner self and its outer expression. Thought, emotion and will are reflected outwardly in one's facial expressions and indeed in one's whole body. The body is quite clearly directed by the heart, its inner cause and underlying purpose. Though the heart of man is invisible and his personality may not be known directly, we can know another's inner feelings by observing his behavior. To a considerable degree, a man is what he does, because he embodies what he thinks. The outer man we see mirrors the inner man that is otherwise hidden.

An examination of the world around us also indicates that purposiveness characterizes every level of existence. Life in a variety of forms is directed toward specific goals. In different ways, creation demonstrates its teleological character. Existence manifests design.

As a man embodies an inner spirit, so does the universe as a whole. There is a definite cause or purpose to all existence, which could be called the cosmic heart. Extraordinary new experiments reveal that even plants have emotions and memory. Everything visible is the expression or revelation of an invisible and eternal aim. This heart of all creation is God. He is reflected in all that we can see or hear or touch. He makes His presence known in the totality of creation which serves as His body, exemplifying His sovereignty and providing the outer form of His being.

From man and nature, which both contain the polarity of internal character and external form, we can see that their Creator, their Cause, also exists in polarity. The energy, the force behind all matter, is God's external form, whereas the inner qualities of

⁸ While it has become somewhat customary to refer to the inner life of man in terms of his "mind", this Greek idea exaggerates the purely rational side of the human being and leads to intellectualist definitions of his nature. Though no single word conveys the richness and depth of personality, "heart" at least suggests the emotional and affective aspects of human nature. It should not be limited to these, however, and should be understood to mean the total range of one's inner life.

emotion, intellect and will constitute God's internal character. It should be pointed out that emotion and intellect are quite distinct. Feeling is more basic, and within the heart or mind of God, is the guide, the subject, while reason as its object is a tool; together they work to bring a loving and intelligible direction through God's body. God's heart is subject and His body is object in the same way as man's mind is subject over his body. In the sense that energy is present in all creation, God is omnipresent; and to the degree that God's love, God's truth and God's will are present in men, so is God present.

Because God has mind and man has mind, their relationship with each other has often been similar to the relationships between men. This has led some to seek the nature of the Most High by an examination of interpersonal communication. Though often the language of Biblical devotion stresses the majestic authority of God by comparison with our human weakness, there is central to Biblical faith the notion that man and God can enter into a covenant as responsible partners. From this, they can enter into compacts of mutual assistance in the interest of justice and righteousness.

St. Paul said in Romans 1:20: "Ever since the creation of the world His invisible nature, namely His eternal power and deity, has been clearly perceived in the things that have been made." We have heretofore examined the polarity of God's nature in terms of inner and outer. However, there is another fundamental polarity that is "perceived in the things that have been made." Particles consist of both a positively charged part and a negatively charged one which exist in a paired, complementary relationship. Atoms consist of a nucleus of protons (of positive charge) and an electron cloud (of negative charge). Molecules exist in cation (positively charged ions) and anion (negatively charged ions). Plants have stamen and pistil in one plant or the masculine and feminine parts exist in separate plants. In animals too, we see these complementary pairs: rooster and hen, stallion and mare, ram and ewe. And finally in man, we see man and woman.

This basic polarity of positivity and negativity—masculinity and femininity—is fundamental in the structure of existent being;

therefore we can assert that God Himself exists in such a polarity. In his Gifford Lectures entitled *Nature, Man and God*, Archbishop William Temple wrote:

In nature we find God, we do not only infer from Nature what God must be like, but when we see Nature truly, we see God self-manifested in and through it. Yet the self-revelation so given is incomplete and inadequate. Personality can only reveal itself in persons. Consequently, it is specially in Human Nature—in men and women—that we see God.⁹

Adam alone does not provide a complete image of God; but, Adam and Eve together are God's image. Male and female he created them. Adam and Eve stand on a ladder of polarity which descends to the protons and electrons at the base of the realm of matter. Man and woman relate to each other by divine design; physically and psychologically they complement each other's outer and inner structure.

In his theological anthropology, *Man in Revolt*, Professor Brunner indicates that the biological difference between the sexes is basic and deep-seated. Spiritually, he tells us, man expresses the productive principle while the woman exemplifies the principle of bearing and nourishing. Man turns more to the outside world while the woman concentrates more on the inner realm. The male seeks the new and the female longs to preserve the old. While the man likes to roam about, the woman prefers to make a home.¹⁰

One may have already recognized this concept as the ancient Chinese philosophy of yin and yang. Yang refers to positivity: the sun, man, male animals, positive electrical charge; yin refers to negativity (not with a derogatory implication): the moon, woman, female animals, negative electrical charge.

Positivity is subject and negativity is object; that is, subject

⁹ William Temple, *Nature, Man and God*, Macmillan Co., N.Y., 1949, p. 226.

¹⁰ Emil Brunner, *Man in Revolt*, Charles Scribner's Sons, N.Y., 1939, pp. 353-355.

refers to the initiating force and object refers to the responding power. The male Adam represents the assertive, aggressive thrust of love while Eve suggests the receptive yet creative energy, responding with beauty. Thus the creation of man and woman as a pair provides a psychosomatic and objective manifestation of the fundamental bipolarity of God.

This aspect of God has not been emphasized in Western Civilization; traditional theology has seen God as masculine.¹¹ The psychotherapist Eric Fromm¹² asserted, however, that from a psychological standpoint there are deficiencies in a society based on the worship of an exclusively male deity. Fatherly love makes demands, sets up principles of appropriate behavior and establishes laws of correct action. Filial love thereby depends on the obedience of the son to paternal demands. However, if the child cannot live up to the demands, he may feel a lack of love and by self-accusation cut himself off from his father's love, thinking he could not possibly receive or deserve it. The result of this is frustration and depression.

Maternal love by contrast is unconditional, all-enveloping.

¹¹ Within the established Christian Churches, little if any serious consideration has taken place concerning the masculine-feminine polarity within the nature of God. Between World Wars I and II Father Sergius Bulgakov taught theology in Paris to the Russian emigré colony. He meditated particularly on the passages in the Bible about the divine wisdom (*sophia*) to which the scriptures assign a feminine nature. (*Proverbs*, chapters 8 and 9). He combined these Biblical studies with popular opinion and liturgical practice concerning Mary, the Mother of Jesus. Within the Christian tradition as a whole there seemed to be no other way to justify a feminine aspect to the divine nature. "God-manhood", he concluded, "is to be found 'on earth as it is in heaven' in a double, not only a single form: not only that of the God-man, Christ, but that of his mother too. Jesus-Mary—there is the fullness of God-manhood." Mary "is the personal subject of the humanity of Christ and his feminine counterpart." (Sergius Bulgakov, *The Wisdom of God*, Paisley Press, N.Y., 1937, p. 184).

Although his sophiology in itself was a daring innovation he tried to qualify it enough to make it look tolerably Orthodox. He admitted that Mary is not divine or even theandric. Though she is a manifestation and revelation of the Holy Spirit ("the human likeness of the Holy Ghost") she remains a woman. Despite these qualifications, Bulgakov's sophiology won almost no support and was widely condemned by other Eastern Orthodox theologians.

¹² Eric Fromm, *The Art of Loving*, Harper & Row, N.Y., 1956, pp. 65-66.

According to Fromm, it does not need to be acquired, but comes as a natural gift of physical birth. The children come from the mother physically and psychologically, and she loves them simply because they are hers—not because they obey her commands and fulfill her wishes. The physical intimacy and psychic dependence are universal.

For Fromm, an understanding of God as both Father and Mother would lead to a more rounded and stable personality in its adherents. He pointed out, however, that even in a strict patriarchal society, Mary and the Church in Catholicism and Eastern Orthodoxy are referred to as "Mother". Also Martin Luther's "justification by faith alone" implies a maternal love from God, in that we need not prove that we deserve it. Whether we accept Fromm's assertions or not, it is clear that considering God as both Father and all-embracing Mother broadens and clarifies what we need and seek in God. Each aspect by itself is incomplete and onesided.

In his book *The Hebrew Goddess*, Raphael Patai points out that comparative religion reveals that man represents the nature of God in both masculine and feminine ways. Judaism is no exception to this pattern. In the Old Testament we learn that for about six centuries, from the arrival of Israelite tribes in Canaan to Nebuchadnezzar's destruction of Jerusalem, the Hebrews worshipped the goddess Asherah as well as Yahweh. Asherah symbolized the great mother and her statue was put in the temple at Jerusalem. When Elijah killed 450 prophets of Baal, he did nothing to the 400 prophets of Asherah. Patai concludes that she must have been regarded as the necessary or at least tolerable female counterpart of Yahweh.

Philo the Alexandrine Jew suggested that the cherubim symbolized two aspects of God: God the Father (Reason) and God the Mother (Wisdom). When the Torah uses the name Elohim to denote God, it refers to the Divine Father, Husband, Begetter and Creator. When the scripture speaks of God as Yahweh, it indicates the Divine Mother, Wife, Bearer, and Nurturer. Patai records Reb Qetina's (a Babylonian Talmudist of the 3rd-4th century) information that when Jews made the pilgrimage to Jerusalem the priest

would roll up the veil hiding the Holy of Holies to show a huge statue of cherubim intertwined with one another as an illustration of the male and female characteristics of divine love. These two aspects of God later typified Talmudic theology and medieval mystical Judaism.

Divine Principle then recognizes that the very essence of the paternal and maternal instinct come from, and are perfected in, God.

GIVE AND TAKE

When Moses asked God for a name by which He could be called, He replied rather enigmatically, “I am who I am.” (Exodus 3:14) According to Father John Courtney Murray, this Biblical definition of the divine name could mean any or all of three very different things. It could mean God is being itself and be translated “I am He who is.” It could mean God is the Creator and be translated “I am to be whatever comes to be.” Or it could imply God is the ever present “I shall be there with you in power.”¹³

Divine Principle asserts that God is perpetual, self-generating energy, the first cause and the primal source of all that exists. This ultimate source energy is the outer form as heart is the inner character of the Godhead. The give and take between them forms the foundation for His eternal existence. Causing the visible creation and operating through it, God is responsible for the innumerable types of patterns which energy forms to make the world we touch; see and know.

Repeatedly the scriptures emphasize the amazing power and inexhaustible energy of God. In the Psalter, He is revealed in a wild storm: in the lightning flash and thunder He shakes the cedars of Lebanon and frightens the deer into giving birth to their fawns prematurely.¹⁴ In the book of Judges, Samson was possessed with divine strength so he could pull down a Philistine temple with his bare hands. Some scholars say that Mount Sinai was considered

¹³J.C. Murray, *The Problem of God*, Yale University Press, New Haven, 1964, pp. 8-9.

¹⁴ Psalm 29:5-9. Variant reading in RSV.

sacred because it was a volcano symbolizing the awesome majesty of Yahweh. To quote an Old Testament authority,

If this God has to be typified in one word, that word must be Power; or, still better, perhaps, Force. Everything about and around Yahweh feels the effect of this. He as it were electrifies his environment.¹⁵

The Hebrews spoke of God as a mighty king, an exalted judge or the commander of a vast army, literally the Lord of hosts. But even the purely moral attributes ascribed to Him are dynamic qualities. When we say God is love, God is justice, God is truth, we mean that He is a God of overwhelming power. Consequently, men of faith are known for their remarkable courage, steadfast conviction and lasting influence over others. God comes to man, as the Pentecost incident relates, like the rush of a mighty wind. Those gripped by His Spirit therefore become virtually irresistible and indomitable, men of granite and steel.

In his book *God and the World*, theologian John B. Cobb, Jr. claims that "God can be conceived as a very special kind of energy-event." Obviously, God is not physical in the usual sense of the word; He is physical, Cobb maintains, in the sense that there is a 'physical' energy-event behind each element of the world of matter, and that those energy-events include mental and spiritual phenomena.¹⁶

In what direction and for what purpose, then, does this energy move? We have heretofore seen that every element in the universe is part of or divided into subject-object pairs. Yet, if the elements existed by themselves, without a force or energy which causes them to be attracted to their complement, there would be no life, no multiplication, no existence. Therefore, the universal source energy emanating from God operates to stimulate and produce a give and take action between the subject and object. For example,

¹⁵ T.C. Vriezen, *The Religion of Ancient Israel*, Westminster Press, Philadelphia, 1967, p. 131.

¹⁶ John B. Cobb, Jr., *God and the World*, Westminster Press, Philadelphia, 1969, pp. 68-71.

through this source energy, protons and electrons interact to form atoms; positive and negative charges create a flow of electricity; male and female animals unite to produce young. This give and take process also extends to the exchange of energy between life systems; in an aquarium the plants utilize carbon dioxide exhaled by fish and discharge oxygen which is used by the fish in return. (In fact, the awareness of the give and take process, exemplified in the complex behavior of plants and animals in a specific geographical environment, is central to the new interest in ecology.) Zoologists speak of a vast web of life in which each constituent part plays both a productive (giving) and a receptive (taking) role.

The source energy from God is in a vertical relationship to everything else while the energy produced through give and take between other subjects and objects is horizontal. Hence, there is no creation in which God's spirit is not at work. This universal law of give and take is another aspect of God's omnipresence; nothing can exist without this connection to the living, ever-active God. Through the union provided by the give and take action, a receptive base is made between a subject and object and new life is produced. Each receptive base serves as a launching pad for new action by the spirit of God. In addition, through the receptive bases, the whole creation continues its existence and maintains its motion.

The ultimate in the series of give and take relationships is the love between man and woman, husband and wife. They are the separate images of God's fundamental polarity and therefore have the natural inclination and capacity to form a perfect reciprocal relationship. In so doing they feel exciting and stimulating joy; thus, they bring great happiness to each other and build a harmonious unity between them. From such a unity, children are produced. In Unification theology these three stages are called origin, division and union (God, male and female, children).

This process in turn establishes four positions: origin, subject, object and union. With God at the center, these four positions provide the basis on which the purpose of each being in creation is fulfilled. This 'group' with God at its heart is called in *Divine*

Principle terminology the "base of four positions."

The base on the family level, parents and children with God at the center, provides the natural foundation of human society. This becomes the pattern for all other bases of four positions. On the community level, for example, the four positions would be God, the leadership, the people and the community formed among them. Of course, if the leadership were centered on God, then we would and could have an ideal community. Societal, national and international relationships are also derived from that pattern.

The importance of give and take on a cultural level was stressed by Arnold Toynbee; he calls this 'the challenge and response factor', and points to it again and again in his multi-volumed study of different civilizations. The Hellenic ideal, for example, interacted with the Roman, the Judaic and the Egyptian. Christianity itself has often been described as a result of the creative give and take between the Hebrew and the Greek. In our own century we are witnessing a world-wide meeting of East and West, a cross-cultural exchange of vast significance.

According to many sociologists and historians interaction of this sort is the very stimulus required to produce the flowering of a civilization or a step forward in its cultural evolution. To cite a single instance, the culture of Western Europe might have stagnated in the Dark Ages had the Crusaders not been introduced to the art, philosophy and general refinement of the Arab world.

Looking at the world today however, we see the give and take principle in action in society at large is not achieving the same effect as the give and take principle in nature. In nature, we see an infinitely delicate harmony, whereas in man we see a world of conflict. This is a result of the *quality* of the give and take as well as the '*cargo*'. If the cargo were love, and it was transported with understanding, then the result would be a world of harmony and cooperation. The reason why Christianity has flourished is because of its emphasis on the primacy of love. Love unites one to another and creates interpersonal harmony; the New Testament envisions a loving fellowship which binds together very disparate kinds of people—the Jew and Gentile, Greek and barbarian, male and

female, slave and freeman. However, we must have a warehouse from which to receive this cargo of love. It is somewhat like the people in a poor but partially industrialized nation; the railroad tracks are there, the train can come through—yet if there is no food in the cargo, the people cannot be satisfied. That is, in the world today the lines of give and take are established—and the foundation for a harmonious, satisfied society is being laid—we need more cargo.

St. Paul said: love is higher than faith or hope or the glory of martyrdom. The author of I John wrote:

Beloved, let us love one another; for love is of God, and he who loves is born of God and knows God. He who does not love does not know God; for God is love. . . . God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God and God abides in him. (4:7-8, 16b)

Harmony among people can be achieved because they first love God; they have access to the warehouse and can pass this cargo of God's love to the rest of their neighbors. That is what Paul did: spreading this new faith throughout the Hellenistic world, he was well aware that in Jesus' eyes, the commandments to love God with all your heart and to love your neighbor as yourself were the most important of the hundreds in the Torah. He knew that harmony on the horizontal level was dependent on the vertical relationship with God; that give and take flows freely between men only when it flows between men and God; that "Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom." (II Cor. 3:17)

PURPOSE OF CREATION

A. Traditional Viewpoints

In the Eastern Orthodox Church, the purpose of man's creation is to attain deification. As St. Athanasius and other Church Fathers put it, God became man in order that we might become God. The Divine became human so that the human could become divine.

According to one such Orthodox explanation, God appointed man to unite in himself the whole of created being. At the same time man was challenged to reach perfect union with God. From this, a true state of deification of the whole creation could be achieved.

To do this, it was first necessary that man should sublimate his sexual drive. He would thereby follow the impassible life according to the divine archetype. This idea is based on a Biblical interpretation of Genesis that sex was not part of the life of man in the Garden of Eden but is instead one of the most obvious marks of later or fallen humanity. Scholars differ as to whether such a conception was a natural outgrowth of the ascetic practices common to the pursuit of the monastic life or whether in large part it was derived from the dualistic world view of pagan Hellenism.

In the Eastern Orthodox view, by sublimating his sexual drive, man will be in a position to reunite Paradise with the rest of the earth. He would first bear Paradise within himself. Through ceaseless communion with God he could then transform the whole earth into a new Garden of Eden.

After this, man must overcome spatial limitations in his spirit and also in his body. The totality of the sensible universe, both the heavens and earth, must be reunited.

Having passed the limits of the sensible, man would be able to penetrate into the intelligible universe with knowledge equal to that of the angels. Finally, there will be no barriers between himself and God.

In an act of utterly ineffable love man would return to God the whole created universe gathered together in his own being. God could then in His turn so completely give Himself to man that by the gift of grace man could possess all that God possesses by nature. Man and the whole created universe would experience complete deification. According to the Eastern Orthodox view, since this task was not fulfilled by Adam it has become the work of Christ.

Since the time of St. Cyprian and more especially St. Augustine, Roman Catholics have generally identified the continual and

final purpose of God with the life and ultimate triumph of the corporate Church, thought of as the Body of Christ. Man obeys God and lives according to the divine purpose on the earthly plane by nourishing his spiritual life with the sacramental graces provided by the altar and priesthood. Through his faithful membership in the institutional Church, his obedience to its instructions and his participation in its devotional life, he is promised divine guidance and help until death releases him and he is enabled to experience in its fullness the beatific vision. While the Church continues to preserve the story of Adam and Eve as part of the sacred canon, that account plays but a secondary role in the actual understanding of human nature. As for any final recreation of the world, this is left to the Second Coming of Jesus Christ at some unpredictable and remote future date. While there are differences of opinion about such matters among the theologians and possibly even more variety among the laity, in general the emphasis is placed on the role of Jesus Christ rather than the creation story.

Protestant churchmen are even more divided in their views about the purpose of creation, partially because highly critical scriptural study has been prevalent in the theological seminaries for more than a century. Moreover, both clergy and laity have felt the brunt of attacks made upon the whole Christian world view since the Enlightenment of the 18th century.

Evangelical and evangelistic Protestants still lay great stress upon the Fall of man and the fact of original sin. This inevitably results in continual emphasis upon Adam and Eve, but seldom does the account of the first human pair become any sort of model for the present or the future. Such Protestants use the Fall of man to explain why our present world is a pathetic vale of tears and that man longs for the eternal bliss of a heavenly afterlife. Because man has fallen and without divine grace would be destined for everlasting hellfire, evangelicals plead that their fellow creatures abandon a life of pleasure-seeking and keep themselves unstained by the world. Christ rather than Adam plays the chief role in their understanding of human nature and destiny. Life here is treated as a temptation or at least a trial. Real concern is therefore restricted to

resistance to the allure of this world in order to be rewarded with an eternity of supernatural happiness thereafter.

Though all evangelicals believe in a literal second coming of Christ, a last judgment and a millennial kingdom of divine righteousness to be established on a recreated earth, most hesitate to predict when such events will take place. They generally expect a speedy second advent because of the woeful state of the world, yet they tend to be safely vague in their predictions and almost uniformly critical of any apocalyptic movements which appear in their midst.

Liberal theologians for their part have abandoned belief in an infallible Bible, a literal last judgment and an actual second coming. For them the Adam and Eve story and the creation account represent primitive legends derived from Babylonian mythology and revised to suit the theological opinions of early Hebrew priests. Those of individualistic or mystical bent believe that the final purpose of man here on earth can be achieved by means of personal fellowship with God; this, coupled with brotherly love for one's fellowmen under the guidance and inspiration of the spirit of Jesus, illustrates God's pattern for a good life. Liberals of reformist temper identify the coming kingdom with every effort to better the human condition individually and socially. This goal is to be achieved gradually, over a long period of time.

Finally, Neo-orthodox thinkers between World War I and II turned against the liberal theology and criticized it for its facile optimism and its lack of prophetic realism. Returning to the classic theology of the Protestant Reformation, they were inclined to use orthodox and Biblical language wherever possible but treated the meaning of such in highly symbolic fashion. For example, Reinhold Niebuhr used the traditional language about the Fall and original sin but frankly confessed that in his mind the first was "legendary" and the second had "dubious connotations." Similarly he placed strong emphasis on New Testament eschatology with its special symbols of the Christ and anti-Christ meaning merely, as he put it, "that both good and evil grow in history and that evil has no separate history, but that a greater evil is always a

corruption of a greater good.”¹⁷

B. Divine Principle View

The purpose of creation is three-fold yet one. Although nature is created for itself, its own beauty, joy and fulfillment, at the same time it exists for man—to please, serve and glorify him. Man too is created for himself, for his pursuit of happiness and his self-fulfillment; at the same time, nevertheless, his existence, the realization of his desires and his attainment of a mature state of mind are ultimately achieved in relationship with his Creator. In other words, man finds joy and achieves meaning in life by serving and glorifying God. Finally, God created man and nature for Himself so He could experience the fulfillment of His will and be joyful.

Let us elaborate and see what was the intention behind man’s creation. In its interpretation of the following well-known passage of scripture, *Divine Principle* reveals a clear and deep purpose: “Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion. . . .” (Gen. 1:28b) God is bestowing three blessings on Adam and Eve: be fruitful (unite with Him); multiply (unite with each other); have dominion (unite with creation).

In the history of theology man’s relationship with his Creator has been characterized in several ways. The divine-human encounter is compared to a ruler and his subject, a master and his slave, a craftsman and his craft. Unification theology, however, insists on the importance of the most personal analogies: father and child, lover and beloved, bridegroom and bride. The intimacy possible with God not only allows man to reason with God, but also to live in joyous love with Him. By acting according to God’s heart, man can establish a vital rapport between himself and God, resulting in perpetual, ever-expanding joy.

Such was God’s intention: be fruitful by uniting with Him.

As Thomas à Kempis wrote in *The Imitation of Christ*: “Ah, my Lord God, most faithful lover, when thou comest into my

¹⁷ Preface to Scribner Library edition of *Human Nature and Destiny*, pp. viii & ix.

heart, all that is within me dost joy! Thou art my glory and the joy of my heart, my hope and my whole refuge in all of my troubles.”¹⁸

Rabindranath Tagore, the Indian religious poet and philosopher, is no less ecstatic:

Thou hast made me endless, such is thy pleasure. This frail vessel thou emptiest again and again, and fillest it ever with fresh life. This little flute of a reed thou hast carried over hills and dales, and hast breathed through it melodies eternally new. At the immortal touch of thy hands my little heart loses its limits in joy and gives birth to utterance ineffable... Life of my life, I shall ever try to keep my body pure, knowing that thy living touch is upon all my limbs. I shall ever try to keep all untruths out from my thoughts, knowing that thou art that truth which has kindled the light of reason in my mind. I shall ever try to drive all evils away from my heart and keep my love in flower, knowing that thou hast thy seat in the inmost shrine of my heart. And it shall be my endeavour to reveal thee in my actions, knowing it is thy power gives me strength to act. I ask for a moment’s indulgence to sit by thy side. The works that I have in hand I will finish afterwards. Now it is time to sit quiet, face to face with thee, and to sing dedication of life in this silent and overflowing leisure.¹⁹

Despite God’s intention, the purpose of creation has not yet been realized; it is unrealized because man has not responded fully to God’s love. He has not become perfect (*You must be perfect as your Heavenly Father is perfect. Matt. 5:48*) He has not become God’s temple (*Do you not know that you are God’s temple and*

¹⁸ *The Imitation of Christ*, III:5.

¹⁹ Gitanjali, 1, 4, 5, *Collected Poems and Plays of Rabindranath Tagore*, Macmillan Co., N.Y., 1958, pp. 3-4.

God's Spirit dwells in you? I Cor. 6:19) Therefore, for God, man has not become fruitful; consequently neither God's joy nor man's joy has been consummated.

When this first blessing is realized (to develop the capacity to respond to God's love is *still* the divinely ordained purpose of existence) God intends to bless men and women in true marriage. Had there been no Fall, Adam, Eve and their children would have formed the first God-centered four position foundation on the family level. Man experiences great vitality in his life when he finds a mate whom he can love with his whole being, and be truly loved in return. In this united state a woman and a man could be joyous, sensitive objects to God. Through their love, children would then be born and the parents would experience their own creation of another person who would reflect and amplify their own nature. Such a family would serve as the foothold for God's sovereignty in the physical world and a fountainhead of love for each member of the family. A child first would learn to receive love from his parents and love from God; however, as he grows he would learn to give love to others in a mutual relationship; this would culminate in the ultimate giving of one's self to another in marriage. Finally, as a parent, he must be willing to love his children unselfishly.

Although traditional Christianity has considered marriage a sacrament through which one receives divine grace, marriage is not given the central position as in *Divine Principle*. Mystical religion, Eastern and Western, commonly culminates on the level of individual deification. Unification theology proceeds to an even higher goal to transcend the individualism of the ordinary mystic: from I and my Father are one to I and my spouse are one, centered on God.

The third blessing, "Unite with creation" (have dominion) is fulfilled when spiritually mature men and women understand and appreciate the creation as God does. The creation then, would respond with beauty, abundance and a festive glow. According to the Bible, the creation eagerly awaits the sons of God (Rom. 8:19); though we may sometimes glimpse a vision of that eternal beauty

in and behind creation, mankind as a whole has never realized its true value, nor presided over the earth in a true dominion. Though man was to be the lord of creation, he has often either been oppressed by his material environment or shamefully exploited his physical resources.

This base of four positions (God, man, creation, kingdom of God on earth) would complete the series of three bases of four positions and bring to fulfillment the promise of God's three special blessings for man. By becoming one with God, man establishes the base of four positions on the individual level (God, mind, body, perfected man) and thereby inherits God's all-encompassing love; with this love he grows and is blessed in marriage, forming the base of four positions on the family level (God, man, woman, children); finally, with God's standard of value and love, he and the creation become one in purpose in returning joy to Him.

We have been dealing with the purpose of creation centered on man. If man were created for God, so that God could see His image reflected and give and receive love from man, then why did He create the universe, the creation apart from man?

According to *Divine Principle*, its purpose is to bring joy to man and at the same time realize its own life. Since joy is produced when the object resembles the subject, God made all things after the pattern of man. In the animal kingdom, from the simplest to the most complex, all structures, forms and elements resemble man in varying degrees. In plants also, the root, trunk and leaves correspond to man's stomach, heart and lungs. One can even compare the structure of the earth itself to that of the human body. The earth's vegetation, crust, substrata, underground and surface waterways, and its core and molten lava correspond in essence to the hair, skin, musculature, blood vessels, fluids, skeleton and bone marrow of the body.

Thus, all things were created after the model of man and resemble him particularly in their subject-object relationships. In everything we see the objective display of man's inner polarity. The give and take between subject and object in all things produces

a state of oneness in which man feels joy. Ideally, if man cared for and truly loved the creation, every part of it would respond with beauty and service to him. Through man, then, the creation is glorified and becomes a substantial object to God and pleases Him. This is the base of four positions which fulfills man's dominion over all things.

This resemblance to man is not confined to nature, but extends to human society. The organs, structure and function of society resemble the organs, structure and function of the human body. Like a brain, political leaders provide executive direction for a nation; like the heart and lungs religious spokesmen and intellectuals revitalize a society with warm blood and fresh air; like the digestive system, agriculture and industry promote national growth; while like arms and legs, workers and soldiers offer means for social movement and self-defense. The entire creation is a creation of resemblance. Nature and society resemble man and man resembles God.²⁰ Since all creation resembles God directly or symbolically, a single person or any one part of creation is a concrete expression of divine truth.

The final and most important question is what does God gain from man and nature?

The almighty Creator is a God of heart and the essential desire of heart is to experience lasting joy. What is the source of joy? Joy is produced when a subject projects his inner and outer nature into a substantial object and perceives his own nature in the object's response. As long as an artist merely conceives an idea without embodying it in a work of art, his joy is not fulfilled. But when his idea is perfectly expressed in some actual work, he feels great satisfaction.

In a similar fashion, as long as the Word (Logos), the divine idea, remained unrealized inside the divine mind, God's creative plan was unfulfilled. So, projecting His whole nature into His work, God produced man to manifest His invisible self in the form

²⁰ Professor A. E. Garvie points out, "God is *beyond* and *above*, not only men but the world around him, but He is *akin to* and even within men." *Christian Belief in God*, Harper & Bros., N.Y., 1932, p. 32.

of a visible and tangible image. Thus, God created man to experience joy. However, great joy is born from love and love remains incomplete until it is reciprocated. Even God as the ultimate subject requires an object for the give and take of His love; God wants to pour out His infinite love to man and receive man's full, uninhibited response.

Being spirit Himself, why did God have to create man with both soul and body? God needs man to be the mediator for heavenly dominion. He cannot receive joy directly from the physical world but only through man.

The reason man and the physical universe are similar in structure and elements is so that man might have complete give and take with the visible world as well as dominion over it. The physical and spiritual worlds are entirely different. Things which belong to the former alone lack the inner sense by which to perceive the heart of God. He cannot relate to them directly with truth and love.

Being spiritual man can communicate with God and the invisible world; at the same time, being physical he can relate to the visible world. Through man these two realms have give and take: man becomes the dynamic center of joyous harmony between them. The infinite beauty, love and joy of God manifested in the material world, when felt by man, make earthly life heavenly. On the other hand, the beauty and love of our physical universe—when sensed by man—are reflected in the spiritual realm, filling the heavens with joy. Thus God needs man to serve as a medium of conjunction and interaction between Himself and creation.

This is not only true of man in a collective sense but also on an individual level. As each one comes to the point where he can communicate with God through his mystical senses, a new relationship between them is made possible. Because God is infinite and man finite, God needs an infinite number of finite objects to complete His joy in which each relationship is different and each person reflects a special aspect of God's loving personality.

When man achieves lordship God can enjoy fully the creation through man. As the Creator can then fully appreciate the physical

realm through man, the incarnation of God is at last fulfilled. In such a way without limiting Himself to the finite, God assumes a human body and receives everlasting joy from both worlds. Thus, the prophetic words in Revelation 21:3 come to pass: ‘I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, ‘Behold, the dwelling of God is with man. He will dwell with them and they shall be his people, and God himself will be with them.’’ A kingdom of heaven—a garden of Eden—would be the reality on earth. All of this waits to be realized.

The purpose of each person or thing is dual, with an aspect of the individual and an aspect of the whole. The purpose of the whole is causative, while the purpose of the individual is resultant. Therefore, the individual purpose depends on the whole. Furthermore, there is complete harmony between the purpose of each individual and that of the whole, though, in a limited view, conflicts may seem to exist. In all its movements, the universe is a unit of one purpose.

GROWTH AND DOMINION

A. The Biblical Creation Story

Some people may think that God created the universe instantaneously with a sudden and inexplicable miracle of divine power. However, a careful and reverent study of the first chapter of Genesis shows that God works according to principle and law. He would not have created the universe without order. There is order in space and in time. Spatial order can be seen, for instance, in the structuring of the human body and in the arrangement of heavenly bodies. There is order in the form and placement of everything in the universe, from atoms to galaxies. In a general but remarkable fashion, the Genesis creation account clearly resembles the scientific account to be found in the ordinary college textbook: God first created man’s environment, the physical world; then He populated the earth with creeping things, fowl of the air and other animals; finally, the creation culminated in the appearance of man.

Since the time of the Christian catechetical school of Clement and Origen at Alexandria, Egypt in the second century, it has been

customary to interpret the six "days" of creation as epochs of indeterminate time. Pope Leo XIII pointed out in his encyclical *Providentissimus* of 1893 that there can be no real conflict between the theologian and the natural scientist while both observe the limits of their respective sciences. He states that the Bible was not intended to teach men concerning the external structure of visible things.

B. Three Stages of Growth

In the creation of the world, all things grew through a series of stages. The process of growth is a universal characteristic of the world in which we live; to a certain extent the late 19th century scientists understood this. They saw that there is a gradual ascent in the overall course of the pre-animate and subsequent biological history of terrestrial creation. The age of the fishes, for example, was succeeded by the age of the amphibians and reptiles until the world was ready for the kingdom of the mammals.

The French Jesuit Teilhard de Chardin, who is well-known for his paleontology in China, notes that when observed in terms of millions of years, life can easily be seen to move in a definite direction. To prove this all one has to do is compare moments in the earth's history separated by a substantial interim. Teilhard explains that every ten million years life virtually grows a new skin.

Anti-religious scientists who maintain that development takes place randomly are clearly mistaken. According to Teilhard, from the lowest to the highest level of the organic world there is a persistent and clearly defined thrust of animal forms toward species with more sensitive nervous systems.²¹ The divine mind behind creation works according to a plan.

Divine Principle sets forth a model of the creation based on the significance of the number three, symbolic of completion. Not only does scripture offer profuse reference to the number three, but creation itself develops on every level in terms of three stages: formation, growth and perfection. Man passes through three

²¹ Pierre Teilhard de Chardin, *Let Me Explain*, Harper & Row, N.Y., 1970, pp. 30-32.

periods of life: childhood (formation), adolescence (growth) and adulthood (perfection). Minerals go through three stages: gaseous, liquid and solid. Not only in growth but in structure as well, three stages occur. For instance, man and animals possess a head, a body and extremities. There are three primary colors: red, yellow and blue. There are three kingdoms: animal, plant and mineral. And all of this exists in a three-dimensional world.

C. Direct and Indirect Dominion

For Christian thinkers there has often been considerable tension between their faith that God rules man and the equally strong belief that man possesses free will. This was the crux of the debate between Augustine and Pelagius. Christians claim that from birth to death man is guided and governed by the strong love of a kind Heavenly Father. On the other hand, no less certain is the conviction that man is the master of his fate and the captain of his soul. Unification theology deals with this question in its penetration of "Direct" and "Indirect" Dominion.

According to *Divine Principle*, God's rule over man before he reaches perfection is an *indirect dominion*. Just as plants and animals have to reach a certain level of growth in accordance with natural law before man can harvest or have full use of them, so must we mature spiritually in accordance with divine law before God can "harvest" us. That maturity is achieved as man becomes one with God's heart; when man fully responds to God, God bestows on him His love and His power. This is called *direct dominion*. It should not be confused with a one-sided domination, but rather understood as a mutual loving companionship. Nor should it be considered as a duty²²: in fact, it is the crowning jewel in one's interior life, opening on an immense new vista of effervescent joy and seraphic beauty.

²² Professor Edgar Sheffield Brightman of Boston University criticized the duty-centered Protestant faith he found around him. At first sight, he observed, morality seems to fail to supply the joy which should characterize religion at its best. Morality is commonly interpreted in terms of carrying out disagreeable duties. We think that we can discover what we ought to do by consulting our inclinations and then doing the opposite.

(cont.)

For a true union, a perfect subject requires a perfected object; therefore, God, in His perfection cannot relate to man directly until man himself becomes perfect and is capable of a depth of understanding which is more compatible with God's understanding. Divine law or divine principle is a guide for man during the process of growth. Man's spiritual maturation through the formation, growth and perfection stages follows the pattern of physical growth through childhood, adolescence and adulthood. The three stages, though not sharply divided, of course, are nevertheless apparent; they flow into one another on a continuum with perfection not being a static state, but rather a new awareness, a new dimension of heart. The period before perfection, when God only governs man indirectly through divine principle, is called God's indirect dominion. The principle operates of its own accord to supervise and direct the spiritual development of man, much as natural law governs the workings of the physical universe.

However, man's spiritual growth follows a different pattern than that of physical creation; while the things of the material world grow to maturity according to the autonomous power of the principle, man does not grow to maturity automatically. Had he, then we would be living in an ideal world. Man must *himself* contribute to this growth by his own conscious, creative effort; he must become a partner with God in his moral, intellectual and intuitive development. That is, the creation process is not completed until man has fulfilled his own portion of responsibility. Figuratively speaking, we may say that God does 95% through the principle, but of man is required the 5% which will bring all things to fruition.

Why then, we may ask, is it necessary for man to go through a

This makes the moral life long faced and somehow grim, a kind of exquisite misery. To the extent that religion puts duty in the foreground, it frequently takes on this quality of grimness. One who finds God or has been found by Him should exclaim, 'Rejoice with me!'

If joy should be the response of man when he experiences communion with God, it no less surely should characterize God when He is able to have fellowship with man. Hence, Dr. Brightman observes that the God of history, a God who somehow brings His will to expression through historical changes, must rejoice in the forward movement of human history as well as grieve at its delay and reverses. Edgar Sheffield Brightman, *The Finding of God*, Abingdon Press, N.Y., 1931, pp. 83 & 129.

period of indirect dominion? Why is it obligatory for man to fulfill his "5%" of personal responsibility?

God is a responsible being; man is created in His image, also a responsible being. Man is challenged to become a co-creator with God and to earn his right to become lord of creation. Indeed, if one is to assume dominion over any aspect of creation, then that person himself must at some time participate in creation. Professor Brunner has pointed out that in man God created something special; he is distinct from other earthly creatures because of the divine likeness bestowed on him by God; and this divine image is most apparently expressed in his power to rule over other creatures.²³ So in God's sight man must first learn to rule himself—to actually *create* himself—before he can have the right to assume a true dominion of creation. This is the condition set by God.

God created man to be subject over the entire universe. In God's mind each man's life is very valuable because no two persons are alike; each has a unique role to fulfill. Each in his perfection is to be the lord of creation.

Hence the value of a perfected person—one who is spiritually alive—is precious to God. It is this type of person whom He dreamed of having as His child—and never saw it fulfilled; whom He sought over the centuries to pour out His love to but was consistently rejected; and whom God is seeking now—to redeem a bound and exploited creation.

This is the person who is qualified to be lord of creation. This is the person who will penetrate direct dominion.

SPIRIT WORLD

A. Parapsychological Evidence

Although not promoting undisciplined adventure in the world of the spirit, Unification theology does recognize astonishing new findings in the parapsychological field. Although the spirit world is considered a reality by all religions and has been experienced by mystic, seer and layman alike, it has been clothed in mystery, superstition and dogma for all but a few. Now, science itself is

²³ Emil Brunner, *Truth as Encounter*, Westminster Press, Philadelphia, 1964, p. 145.

taking a lead in the investigation of this realm and will ultimately be a major force in leading man to cognizance of his eternal life. However, because of all the new research and revelation, it is necessary to bring an objective standard by which to judge the genuine from the counterfeit.

The Fourth Gospel says, "There are many mansions in my Father's house; . . . I go to prepare a place for you." (John 14:2—A.V.) The doctrine of eternal life has therefore always been a standard part of Christian faith. Less commonly taught is the idea that we can communicate with discarnate spirits. Several Christian denominations, nevertheless, pray for the 'dead' and rely on the guidance of past saints. Others believe in immortality while denying that rapport with spirit world is possible. Even an ardent advocate of psychical research like Professor Raynor C. Johnson of Queen's College, Melbourne, Australia says it must be remembered "how much fraud, charlatanry and sensation-mongering" have gathered around parapsychological phenomena.²⁴ Consequently, many churchmen are more apt to sidestep this field without objective inquiry. For centuries it has been a well-kept secret that the founder of Methodism, John Wesley, was very interested in the work of the great scientist Emmanuel Swedenborg, who is one of the major figures in bringing a rational elucidation of the laws and workings of the spirit world. Wesley recorded in his diary that he secretly read Swedenborg's books and was quite eager to meet him.

The parapsychologist today often runs into attitudes which do not always indicate the highest degree of intellectual honesty or scientific discipline. He confronts dogmatism not unlike that of a noted physicist of the late 19th century who declared emphatically that there is nothing more to be learned in the field of physics. And just a little later, Einstein turned the world of physics upside down!

For almost a century, eminent scientists, philosophers and men of letters have sponsored responsible investigation of parapsychological phenomena—especially through the Society for

²⁴ R.C. Johnson, *The Imprisoned Splendour*, Quest Book, Wheaton, Ill., 1971, p. 109. Cf. pp. 107-293 for a well-documented survey of parapsychological data.

Psychical Research.²⁵ Among those who endorsed such studies have been William James, Henri Bergson, Carl G. Jung, Robert Browning and Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. The Society is noteworthy because it has been as interested in validating parapsychology as exposing numerous psychic hoaxes. While most of its prestige has been due to scientists and professors, a few prominent churchmen have also been sympathetic: Dean W.R. Matthews of St. Paul's cathedral in London, President Ozora S. Davis of Chicago Theological Seminary, Bishop James Pike, Dr. Marcus Bach and Dr. Leslie Weatherhead. Sir Oliver Lodge, a world-renowned physicist, pioneered in this area as president of the Society for Psychical Research. He was knighted for his contributions in radio, x-ray technology and electronic theory as well as his service as the head of one of England's great universities, Birmingham. Three of his books, *Raymond*, *The Survival of Man and Reason and Belief* demonstrate his passionate and thorough dedication to the reconciliation of science and religion.

Sir Alister Hardy, professor of zoology at Oxford, has been a stalwart champion of parapsychology in recent years. An expert in marine biology and the leader of the first scientific team to explore Antarctica, he was elected to the Royal Society in 1940 and knighted in 1957. Soon after retirement, he was invited to give the Gifford Lectures at the University of Aberdeen which were published under the titles *The Living Stream* and *The Divine Flame*. For the first time, psychical research was given the highest possible recognition in the Protestant theological world.

In America, Professor J.B. Rhine and his associates at Duke University have carried out important experiments under rigidly scientific conditions; their positive conclusions are of special importance. Also recently, the interdenominational Spiritual Frontiers Fellowship, which counts as one of its founders the Disciples of Christ clergyman Reverend Arthur Ford, has organized study groups throughout the world.

²⁵ A. Angoff and B. Shapin, ed., *A Century of Psychical Research*, Parapsychology Foundation, N.Y., 1971.

On the question of the existence of the spiritual world,²⁶ all of these men and groups, as well as traditional figures of religious history, side together to make one simple statement: "It's there."

B. Visible and Invisible Substantial Worlds

Wernher von Braun, recipient of the Smithsonian Institution's Langley Award, wrote:

Science has found nothing that can disappear without a trace... Nature does not know extinction. All it knows is transformation. Everything science has taught me, and continues to teach me, strengthens my belief in the continuity of our spiritual existence after death.²⁷

Besides the physical universe, which we call the visible world, there is a substantial world which cannot be perceived by the physical senses. In this world spirits live forever after separation from their physical bodies. God created both worlds, which together we call the cosmos. Ardent materialists deny the spirit world. They say that this mysterious world which cannot be sensed physically does not exist. The spirit world, however, is not a world of illusion which man cannot perceive. This world can be clearly experienced for the objective and substantial reality that it is; through spiritual senses we can perceive the spirit world.²⁸

²⁶ Besides the extensive writings of the 18th century Scandinavian mystic Emmanuel Swedenborg, the student desiring additional information may consult with profit Arnold Toynbee et al, *Man's Concern with Death*, McGraw-Hill, N.Y., 1968, especially Rosalind Heywood, "Death and Psychical Research," pp. 219-250.

²⁷ Wernher von Braun, "Immortality", *This Week* magazine, January 24, 1960.

²⁸ In his important lectures on *Christian Mysticism*, Dean W.R. Inge asserted that mysticism rests on the following propositions:

First, the soul as well as the body can see or perceive. Man has an organ for the discernment of spiritual truth which is as much to be trusted, in its proper sphere, as the physical senses in theirs.

Second, since we can only know what is akin to ourselves, man to know God must be a partaker of the divine nature.

Third, without holiness no man may see the Lord. Sensuality and selfishness are absolute disqualifications for obtaining spiritual knowledge. *Christian Mysticism*, Meridian Books, N.Y., 1956, pp. 6-7.

It is a mistake to think that reality lies solely within the physically perceptible world. Our physical senses are limited and we cannot perceive anything beyond this limit, even though it exists. Man hears only the range of sound from 16 to 16,000 cycles per second. Sounds below 16 cycles or above 16,000 cycles are inaudible. Man can see the world reflected by certain light rays, but those with shorter wave lengths, such as x-rays, are invisible to man. With the aid of the refined instruments of today we can verify the existence of things that were invisible and inaudible in the past. The day will come when, with the aid of science, man will be able to sense the world formerly regarded as the world of illusion. This does not mean that we can perceive this world only when science makes it possible; on the contrary, when man's spiritual senses are opened, he is able to perceive this world at will. In fact, there are numerous sensitives who perceive the spirit world and some have explored it extensively.

By the principle of polarity, the counterpart of the physical world must exist. As previously stated, God created all things in subject-object relationships. Man, the subject, has both spirit and body; therefore, his object—the world—must have a two-fold nature. Just as the physical world was created as an environment for man's physical body, so the spirit world was created as an environment for his spirit.

Of the two worlds, which is subject and which object? The relationship between the two worlds is similar to that between man's spirit and body: as man's spirit is subject to his body, so the invisible world is subject to the visible world. The body moves as the heart moves: thus, the events of the spirit world are reflected in the physical world since the spirit world is cause and the physical world, effect. Man's body is the encapsulation of the physical universe and man's spirit is the encapsulation of the spiritual universe. Therefore, man as a microcosm encapsulates the entire cosmos. Possessing both physical and spiritual senses, man becomes the medium of interaction between the two worlds. By having direct dominion over man, God has dominion over the entire universe.

C. Correlation Between the Spirit-Man and the Physical Body

Divine Principle teaches that a human being consists of a spirit-man (spirit) and a physical body, the former being the subject, while the latter is its object. The spirit-man is an entity which can be detected by spiritual senses and whose form is identical to that of the physical body. In contrast to the physical body though, whose life is limited, the spirit-man lives forever as an individual in the spirit world. This understanding of the nature of the discarnate soul is in marked contrast to those religious philosophies which predict either a pantheistic absorption of the individual by a universal force or Godhead after death, or the immediate return of the soul in a new body.

The physical body requires various elements from the physical world for its growth. Likewise, the spirit-man requires for its growth certain elements from the physical body, which serves as its host or soil. As all things grow through three stages of formation, growth and perfection, so the spirit-man also grows through these three stages. A spirit-man in the formation stage is known as a form-spirit; in the growth stage, as a life-spirit; and in the perfection stage, as a divine-spirit. The spirits of different stages can be distinguished: form-spirits are imperfect; life-spirits are more developed and shine with reflective light, like that of the moon; divine-spirits are the most advanced and radiate a bright luminescence from within themselves. In other words, a divine-spirit is a person of perfected heart; he feels God's heart fully, is one with Him, and walks with Him.

The place where divine-spirits dwell is called heaven, whether it is on earth or in the spirit world. Since man becomes a divine-spirit, there is no question but that heaven must begin on earth. For this reason, Jesus came to earth. The spiritual heaven is the realm where divine-spirits live after their full life on earth, but is also the interior world within the perfected person while he is living on earth; for a living man the spiritual world and the physical world coexist in his body. Even though he may not visibly perceive the interior world, he is nonetheless connected to it via the channels of feeling and intuition.

Man was to become a divine-spirit in his earthly life and the ultimate destiny of every man is still to become a divine-spirit. Where do those who have not yet attained this level dwell after their separation from the physical body? Hell is the realm inhabited by spirits who have not yet even grown to the form-spirit level. Form-spirits dwell in the formation stage of the spirit world, and life-spirits inhabit paradise. Hell, paradise and all regions between them exist because of man's Fall.

What is the relationship between the spirit-man and the physical body? Examining their composition and growth, one can see that the physical body is made up of the flesh mind and the flesh body; these are comparable to the body and mind of animals. The flesh body grows by taking in the intangible elements of heat, light and air, and the tangible elements of food and water. The function of the flesh mind is to provide for the existence, protection, motion, perception and sensation of the physical body. Thus, it has the function of biological instinct. The spirit-man consists of the spirit mind and spirit body and requires elements for its growth as does the physical body. Corresponding to the elements of heat, light and air is the 'life element' from God which includes divine love, truth and a rich spiritual atmosphere; corresponding to the elements of food and water is the 'element of vitality' received from the physical body. Just as the physical body needs nourishment from food in order to be alive and vital, so does the spirit-man need nourishment to develop and sustain its vitality. This is why we feel joy and energy when the body is healthy, active and in harmony with the spirit. This energetic feeling which flows from body to spirit is the element of vitality. And the reverse is also true: a spirit filled with a divine ideal, hope and love imparts health and power to the body. The energetic feeling coming from spirit to body is again, the 'life element'.

Since the spirit-man grows in conjunction with the physical body, only to the extent that man experiences love, beauty and joy on earth can he sense them in the spirit world. He continues life in the spirit world with whatever degree of feeling he developed on

earth.²⁹ This is why it is so important for everyone to develop his full capacity for love, both giving and receiving, which is best fostered in family life.

THE HEART OF GOD

Contemporary theology has seen a need for a deeper study of God's heart. Professor Kozoh Kitamori of Tokyo Union Theological Seminary has written a book entitled *Theology of the Pain of God*. In it he maintains that theologians have often denied that God was in any way moved by what happened to His creation. Because of an amalgamation of Hebrew religious feelings and Greek philosophical concepts, they suggest that God was without passion and that as a perfect Being, He would necessarily be free of change. But, if this were true, then God could never lament the creation of man, as is recorded in the Old Testament, nor could He fit the picture of a compassionate, caring and affectionate Father, as Jesus both embodied and related.³⁰

Professor Whitehead complained that too many Christians think of God in terms of an absolute autocratic Roman emperor. He is joined with Dr. Norman Pittenger of Cambridge who commends 'process philosophy' because it recognizes the feelings of a living God in ways that other thinkers have ignored. He is in agreement with the view of Unification theology that God is affected by and

²⁹ The stages and realms in spirit world are referred to in the writings of various mystics or psychics. For reference see Swedenborg's *Heaven and Its Wonders and Hell*, Swedenborg Foundation, N.Y., 1970, pp. 20-25: his description of 'heaven' in three stages, "natural, spiritual and celestial."

³⁰ Unlike Edgar Sheffield Brightman, the thought of a suffering God greatly bothers some Christian theologians. When John Wright Buckham prepared a series of lectures for students at the Divinity School of Doshisha in Japan on the meaning of the Divine Fatherhood, he raised the question whether God suffers and gave this circuitous answer: "on the one hand, one must answer—as did Jesus—in the affirmative. But Divine suffering must be of a kind which none but He can experience. God cannot suffer for Himself. All of His pain must be for others, that is, vicarious suffering. The Divine suffering may be greater than ours in extent because it is all-embracing, all-comprehending and all-compassionate. The Divine suffering must, however, be immeasurably less than ours in kind because He is aware, as we cannot be, of the relation of suffering to the end it serves." (*The Humanity of God*, Harper & Bros., N.Y., 1928, pp. 153-154.)

enriched from the positive activity which occurs in this world; that God not only cares for the creation, but also finds satisfaction within it; that although God is not made any more or less divine by this world, He certainly can take delight in some of us, some of the time. However, Unification theology would go further than the somewhat optimistic interpretation of the process philosophers in recognizing the great burden that also rests on God's heart.

In *Pensées*, Blaise Pascal contrasts the impersonal God of philosophy with the personal God of the Christian believer:

The god of the Christians does not consist of a God who is simply the author of geometrical truths and the order of the elements; that is the part of the pagans and Epicureans. He does not consist merely in a God who exercises Providence over the life and property of men, to give long life and happiness to those who adore him; that is the part of the Jews. But the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, the God of Jacob, the God of the Christians, is a God of love and consolation. He is a God who fills the soul and the heart which he possesses.³¹

For much of the Old Testament, God is portrayed as a strict judge and all-powerful monarch; He rules imperiously according to a hard and fast standard of righteousness. There are flashes however, of a God of tender heart and supreme sensitivity; Hosea particularly foreshadows the depth of understanding that Jesus revealed. Hosea's awareness of God grew out of his own experiences as the loving husband of a faithless wife; his knowledge of her infidelity coupled with his continuing love for her was a heart-breaking experience. What then must be the experience of God, whose love for us is so much deeper and sensitive? In the most profound and revealing of men's relationships, Hosea found the inner meaning of the oft tragic relationship between a faithful God and a faithless nation. For the prophet, his own broken marriage covenant became

³¹ Article XXII, 3 (quoted), W.M. Horton, *Theism and the Scientific Spirit*, Harper & Bros., N.Y., 1933, pp. 18-19.

a living parable of the suffering heart of God.

The intimate relationship between God and man was brought into even better focus through the New Testament; here the object of divine love becomes personal rather than national. According to Professor A. W. Argyle of Oxford, Jesus' favorite word to describe God was *Abba*, meaning 'Father'; and we are reminded that it was deliberately preserved for Greek-speaking Christians by both St. Paul and St. Mark, because they thought it was so important.³² Not only is God so near to us but also He is waiting in anguish as was the father of the prodigal son.

Unification theology underscores the fact that the almighty God is not only the source of energy, the origin and preserver of life, but also Father of Heart, Subject Being of limitless love. This is elaborated extensively in the section on the purpose of creation. Man was to be one with his Creator forming intimate relationships of father and child, friend and friend, lover and beloved, bridegroom and bride. Everyone then would have been like a mirror to reflect God's perfect image and likeness. The desire of God is to reason with man and have communion with him by intense give and take of heart enjoying everlasting, ever-expanding love. But in turning away from God, man shattered the mirror and could no longer reflect God's perfect image or perceive His love fully. Looking at fallen man, God sees His wounded and broken creature, still bearing the divine spark, the seed of protection, but unable to respond to Him freely. Almighty God cannot express His heart of love as He wishes, because His manifestation is limited by the degree of human response and capacity.

The truth, however, is that God was more hurt than man. God feels crushed by the betrayal of His trusted and beloved ones whose treacherous acts frustrated His ambitions and robbed Him of His sovereignty of the world. The injured heart of God—the suffering of the heavenly Father—and the cosmic mischievousness are beyond measurement and human comprehension.

Throughout thousands of years of history God's love has

³² A. W. Argyle, *God in the New Testament*, J. P. Lippincott Co., Philadelphia, 1966, pp. 58-59.

never been requited; God has never received true glory and lasting joy from man but continually suffers from a broken heart.

Ever since man's fall, God has been seeking His lost family with a grieving heart; from the time of Adam He has been calling, "Where are you?" (Gen. 3:9b)

Hear, O heavens, and give ear, O earth; for the Lord has spoken: "Sons have I reared and brought up, but they have rebelled against me. The ox knows its owner, and the ass its master's crib; but Israel does not know, my people does not understand." (Isaiah 1:2, 3)

The more I called them, the more they went from me; they kept sacrificing to the Baals, and burning incense to idols. Yet it was I who taught Ephraim to walk, I took them up in my arms; but they did not know that I healed them. I led them with cords of compassion, with the bands of love, and I became to them as one who eases the yoke on their jaws, and I bent down to them and fed them. (Hosea 11:2-4)

On the other hand, mankind has been suffering from hunger and thirst in spirit, separated from the love of God.

As a hart longs for flowing streams, so longs my soul for thee, O God. My soul thirsts for God, the living God. When shall I come and behold the face of God? My tears have been my food day and night. (Psalms 42:1-3a)

I am weary with my crying; my throat is parched. My eyes grow dim with waiting for my God. (Psalms 69:3)

Man's separation from God brought spiritual death to man and has caused all the sorrow, misery, tragedy and evil within himself and in the world.

Since the time of man's fall, many religions have developed in human society; to seek God through Jesus, or for that matter, any religious search, is man's attempt to restore the original relationship of love with God. If man had not fallen, he would now be living in the bosom of God's love, walking with Him, creating with Him.

The center of Unification theology is to alleviate God's sorrow, restore His sovereignty and to fill His heart with happiness. It is most painful for God to see man blindly oppressed by evil, going forward as if with scales over his eyes. God has been longing for His children and they, like orphans, long for Him. Only when the meeting between this anxious Father and these suffering children is sealed can restoration begin. That day, His reign will resume, the reign of Divine love. Until then, His grieving heart will not be comforted.

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