

# **Parables of the Masters**

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**This collection of parables is a logical continuation of the theme started in the book *Divine Parables*.**

**The parables published in both collections were narrated by the Divine Masters — the Holy Spirits — to help us, embodied people, assimilate the philosophy of God, so that we can learn to live in accordance with His Will for us.**

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# Huang

## Parable about Master Heavenly Heart

*The path of a thousand miles  
begins with a single step.*

Lao Tse

There was a master. He was called Master Heavenly Heart. He was called so because His spiritual heart was connected with the Infinite Tao and opened for the worthy — the gate to the Abode of Tao.

When He walked — Tao was with Him and in Him.

When He stopped — the pass into the Infinite Tao opened in the place where He stood.

When He was thinking — Te were there and illuminated His thoughts.

When He submerged Himself into the calm — He dissolved and disappeared in the infinite Ocean of Tao.

When He acted — the Great Te directed His actions, and Primordial Tao gave Him the power to fulfill them.

It was so with any activity in which He participated. And He did not waste His thoughts but rather

kept peace and silence in the mind — so as not to interfere unnecessarily into what was already done. Yet if He participated in the creation and implementation of any plan — there was no force that could stop this plan from being realized.

A sage sees all the connections between things and events in their unity and from the Calm of Tao. And He acts only when Tao prompts Him to act.

Such was Master Heavenly Heart.

I say “was”, following the custom of people to name as “existing” only that which takes place in the material world, and as “non-existing” what is not dressed in the material cover.

But to be honest, everything should be called vice versa.

The Immortal Masters live *on the other side* of the things and phenomena of the dense material world. But this does not mean that They do not exist.

They may have bodies or may not have them; it does not affect Their awareness of Their existence and Their ability to act anywhere as needed.

Master Heavenly Heart is one of the Immortals. Therefore, He is always everywhere.

He comes to those who really need this and are ready to learn from the Immortal Masters.

At the same time, He always lives where things and phenomena of the material world do not have power and where vanity and worldly desires cannot perturb peace.

Where is such a place? It is in the Infinity of Tao!

Even now it is possible to hear the stories about His great and small deeds. These stories about wisdom remain in the world, where ignorance and dis-

order reign. They help those who travel from this world to the cognition of Tao.

\* \* \*

A young man was looking for a Master Who could help him understand the meaning of human existence on the Earth and cognize the mysteries of Tao.

He heard about the Master Heavenly Heart and decided to find out whether what was said about Him was true or not.

And it was said the following: “He is never in a hurry and never rushes anywhere. He stays all His life in one place but knows everything about everything. He is everywhere and acts only when Tao orders Him. He walks, remaining motionless *inside*. He speaks, maintaining *inner silence*. His peace is transparent, and this allows the Greatness of Tao to be manifested through Him.”

The young man found the modest dwelling place of Master Heavenly Heart.

He saw the Master sitting near a lotus pond and being submerged into the Unity with Tao.

The young man did not have the ability to see Tao and Te, so he decided to make sure that the true Master was in front of him.

He came up to the Master and asked Him:

“Master, can You be wrong?”

“What do you want Me to say in response?”

“If I say: ‘No, I’m never wrong!’ — then you will... worship My words and My body instead of working yourself to achieve the Mergence with Tao.

**“If I say: ‘Yes, I can make a mistake’ — you will torment yourself with doubts about what I could teach you and about My knowledge of Tao — and then you will go to look for another master.**

**“Yet I will answer to you the following: ‘If Tao wishes, I can make a mistake. But it will be that mistake with which Tao will fulfill Its plan.’**

**“Is it enough for you?**

**“In order to cognize the Primordial Source of everything, Great Tao, — your aspiration for Tao is needed, and not miraculous properties of a master! Your success depends on your personal efforts! Even the Greatest of the Immortals cannot make a disciple Enlightened! You yourself should work, transforming your essence!**

**“First of all, you need to master the peace of mind, submerging it into the spiritual heart. Then you will live without being tormented by the crowd of thoughts; you will not be burdened by many things, and a series of mundane events will not overly involve you, nor enslave you!**

**“Clear the space for Tao in your spiritual heart! This will be the start of the creation and growth of the Heavenly Heart!**

**“The one who has mastered the peace of mind and become the love that originates in the spiritual heart — obtains the first achievement: the vanity of thoughts doesn’t overcome this person, wild outbursts of desires have no effect, and love for all creatures and Tao leads this seeker through life.**

**“If you want, tomorrow we can go to the mountains to start learning...”**

**“Master, why do we need to go to the mountains if you possess the power of Tao and Te and can move the mountains right here?”**

**“I wouldn’t like to bother other creatures by moving mountains because of your insignificant desire to see a miracle or because of your laziness that prevents you from making personal efforts.**

**“There is an easier way: we can begin to move our bodies to those mountains.**

**“We will set off, and every day you will see how the mountains become nearer, and how the distance, which separates us from them, reduces.**

**“This is the same with the Spiritual Path: no matter how great is the Master, His disciples themselves must traverse the road! Many times I passed this Path next to My disciples; I won’t give Myself the trouble to pass it again with you.**

**“The Enlightenment is not a gift from a Master to a disciple. The disciples should gain wisdom, love and power on the Path to Tao through their intense work and indomitable courage.**

**“Learn to work diligently and recapitulate what was already done! String the pearls of wisdom, given to you, on the thread that connects them!**

**“All that you will master on this Path may become your property only if you learn to use this wisdom in the life of your body and soul.”**

## Parable about Passing Through Walls

***“The life and development of the Subtlest<sup>1</sup> are eternal and infinite.***

---

<sup>1</sup> Tao.

*It is the Deepest Base of everything.  
On It the material world exists.  
It acts without violence.  
... The gate from the world of matter to the hidden  
world is open when one stays in calm.  
The understanding of this truth comes in non-doing.  
... By strictly following the primordial Path of  
transformation of oneself as a consciousness,  
one can cognize the Eternal Origin.  
This Path is the Path to Tao."*

**Lao Tse — Tao Te Ching (6,10,14)**

**A boy named Wen worked as an apprentice of a potter. He was an orphan.**

**He, supposedly, should be glad about the kind of work he had, about the everyday food he received, even though it was poor, and about the roof over his head...**

**But Wen did not like this monotonous life: he did not like to make the same pots and bowls every day from morning to night.**

**He was doing it well, he was trying his best, but he dreamt about another thing...**

**He wanted to be a disciple of a Master of Tao, and not of a potter!**

**He wanted to leave that small world of the workshop with high clay walls, which separated him from the rest of the world! He wanted to break free from the monotonous circle of life!...**

**... Once the potter caught Wen doing something strange. The boy molded a human figure out of clay,**

dried it a little, then submerged it into the water — and it disappeared...

“If I too could disappear, if I could dissolve and become invisible — I would run away from this place and find a Master of Tao,” — thought Wen.

In these dreams, he was found by his owner. And the punishment, of course, was not long in coming.

The potter was beating Wen with a bamboo stick and became more and more exasperated by the fact that the stubborn boy was not asking for mercy...

And Wen, trying to hold back his moans, was imagining that his body... would dissolve, disappear now in the air in front of the amazed potter... He knew that the Immortal Masters of Tao could do this: They disappeared and then reappeared elsewhere!...

At that time, a man appeared in the yard. About how he passed through a well locked solid door or through high clay walls around the workshop, and got inside — the angry potter and Wen speculated much later...

It was Master Heavenly Heart. He said:

“Let this boy go with Me! I’ll pay you the price that you will name.”

“... Uh... He is a very good worker and I appreciate him,” — the potter started.

He stopped punishing Wen and began to think frantically about how much money he could ask from the strange traveler. He increased the highest price ten times, expecting haggling, and called it out... For his total surprise, the visitor calmly laid out the named quantity.

From that moment, Master Heavenly Heart no longer paid any attention to the agitated potter, as if he did not exist, and talked with the boy only:

“Pack up your things, Wen!” — He said. — “You wanted to learn what the Immortal Masters of Tao know. If you go with Me, I’ll show you the way to the Abode of Tao.”

... Everything had happened so fast that Wen did not have time to wonder that the unusual Traveler knew his name... He hastily packed up his meager belongings.

Wen was still a bit afraid that this miracle was only a dream and that he would wake up soon and open his eyes... before a potter’s wheel...

But Master Heavenly Heart was real!

So Wen set off with Him.

Thus he became a disciple of Master Heavenly Heart.

\* \* \*

Many years passed. Wen’s new life as a disciple of Master Heavenly Heart was not easy, but it gave him incredible happiness of deeper and deeper cognition of Tao and Te!

... Once Master Heavenly Heart talked with His disciples who had been cognizing under His leadership the Radiance of Te and the Infinity of Tao for many years.

That time He was explaining to them about the death of the body, and the disciples were listening to Him attentively:

“Those who never think about the moment when they leave their bodies forever — may find

themselves confused, especially if they leave their bodies unexpectedly and under adverse circumstances.

“You’ve already known that souls continue to exist after the separation from their bodies.

“When the soul is dressed in its body, people are used to calling this *life*. When the soul leaves its body forever, they call this *death*...

“But when we put on our usual clothes — we are not less or more alive than when we take them off...

“Souls without their former bodies continue to exist in the state to which they were accustomed while living in their bodies. That is, they find themselves among the souls similar to them in the worlds of corresponding coarseness or subtlety. Coarse and evil souls live among those who hate and do violence. On the contrary, gentle and tender souls live in the abode of peace and caress...

“Those Who have learned to live permanently in the Mergence with Te — acquire Oneness with Te.

“And Those Who have consolidated themselves in the Mergence with Tao — obtain the Highest Abode of All the Perfect Ones.

“In youth, it seems to us that we have an infinite quantity of time ahead... Thoughts about life and death usually visit us at the end of our earthly travel. But it’s not wise! In old age, a person almost has neither time nor energy for spiritual attainments! Therefore, it makes sense for us to be always ready for the *transition*.

“With the loss of the body, a soul loses its ability to change itself. That is why, every moment of life in the body should not be wasted!

**“For Those Who have cognized Tao — the death of Their bodies is not something terrifying! It does not take away Their achievements and wisdom!**

**“Thus the Perfect Ones, Who have flowed into Tao, leave the material world.**

**“The one who has cognized the Infinity of Tao — can accustom himself or herself to the life in the Mergence with Tao. In this case, this person will feel no fear when the time to leave the body comes. Having left the body, He or She will submerge into the Bliss of Tao!**

**“All of you have already started learning to enter the Mergence with Tao. And you know that Tao is endless and omnipresent.**

**“This is a great achievement to live in the stable Mergence with Tao.**

**“How can this be mastered? You can, for example, in meditation, perceive Tao as the Infinite Wall behind the anahata of your material body. And you can lean against this Wall, merge with it, and disappear in it.**

**“To achieve this, you, as souls, need to have the same level of subtlety as Tao.**

**“Moreover, since Tao is omnipresent, this Endless Wall is right here...”**

**Master Heavenly Heart leaned against the invisible Wall consisting of Peace of Tao and having no boundaries on the left, on the right, above and below... With the movement of the Arms of the Soul, He entered the Mergence.**

**Now the body of Master Heavenly Heart was filled with the Transparent Calm of Tao. His body became like a protrusion from the Infinity of Tao to the world of matter. It allowed the Master to be present**

simultaneously in both worlds: in the world of the Creator and in the world of the Creation.

Having showed this exercise, Master summed up:

“This is, more or less, how you can learn to live now. If you meet the death of your bodies in this state, this will mean that you haven’t learned from Me in vain!”

... After a while, when the disciples, tired from the new exercise, were having a rest, Wen asked Master Heavenly Heart:

“Will You teach us to pass through the material walls?”

“People have invented many ways of creating and destroying different walls... They either build walls to protect themselves from the weather or attacks, or destroy those defensive walls which were created by others...

“Today I’ve showed you the Greatest and Indestructible Wall of all walls!

“And if you ever need to go through the material wall with the body, I will surely teach you to do this.

“That Mergence which I showed you, you should learn to achieve not only while walking in meditation around the pond with lotuses, but also in any place. You should strengthen this Mergence and make it the habitual state in your life. Besides, you should learn to submerge into this state immediately, including under adverse circumstances, although it will take much time to master this.

“Only that one can unite himself or herself with the Great Power of Tao who has transformed everything within himself or herself into the Calm of Tao. For you, this is still a distant future. But remember

that for those who have worked hard on this Path — nothing is impossible anymore!”

And Master Heavenly Heart disappeared, having moved slightly His Arms of the Soul and stepped back into the Infinite Wall consisting of the transparent Peace of Tao.

... And His disciples began to master the meditation shown to them.

\* \* \*

Years passed...

Wen was a successful disciple.

On the instructions of Master Heavenly Heart, he himself founded a small monastery in the north part of China and began to teach there what he had learned from his Master.

That evening, Wen again recalled the lesson on the acceptance of the death of the body through the direct achievement of the Blissful Mergence with Tao. This filled his body with Great Peace...

“But still what a pity that the Master did not teach us the ability to pass through the material walls!” — he thought. — “This would be very useful now!”

The invasion of nomads swallowed their province, and the monastery was captured...

Wen fondly looked at his young disciples. They were sleeping on the earth floor of a dungeon and were sure that he, Wen, would save them...

A cruel leader of one of the detachments of the attackers decided to show to all the locals the strength of the new power. He wanted to show that his “gods” were “more powerful”. For this purpose,

**Wen and his disciples should be executed tomorrow in front of all people...**

**Wen did not fear the death of his body. He was sure that he would be able to meet it as his Master taught him. But his disciples... They didn't have enough time to master many things!...**

**... Just five years ago, Wen had founded his small school. He had gathered there children-orphaned left without parental care. He had become for them a strict father, a caring mother, and a wise teacher. He had taught them ethical principles, reading, writing, and the development of heart love for all beings. He also had taught them to make pottery. The lessons of the potter were not learned by Wen in vain. The ability to work hard and to do things needed for people had helped his little abode to always have the means of subsistence.**

**But all that he could teach to his pupils was only the initial stages of the Path of the cognition of Tao. He did not have time for more.**

**Wen again recalled the words of Master Heavenly Heart: "If you ever need to go through the material wall, then I'll surely teach you to do this!"**

**Wen even smiled at the brightness of the memories... It suddenly seemed to him that he was, as before, next to his Master...**

**And, verily, Master Heavenly Heart filled all the space around with His Presence. And then His intangible Light became visible to Wen: thus the Immortals can manifest Themselves.**

**"Yes, you're right, it's time to fulfill My promise!" — Master Heavenly Heart said.**

**"There are several ways of passing through the material walls," — He continued. — "Now it makes**

sense for you not only to penetrate the masonry with your bodies, but to be far away from this place.

“Come here to Me. Do with Me what I’m going to show you...”

... Wen repeated exactly the movements of consciousness, being in the Mergence with his Divine Master. His hands touched the prison walls...

He suddenly saw the smiling Face of Master Heavenly Heart... on the other side of the wall... The corridor appeared between his hands and the Hands of Master Heavenly Heart...

The disciples of Wen woke up:

“Master Wen, why is it so bright? Is it morning already?”

“Here is Master Heavenly Heart! Go to Him!...”

The disciples saw Master Heavenly Heart and passed through the corridor opened by the Power of Tao. Wen passed last — and the passage closed up.

They found themselves in another monastery — in the south of China.

The Shining Light and Master Heavenly Heart disappeared.

Han was coming joyfully to meet Wen and his disciples. He was one of the old friends of Master Heavenly Heart. Here, in the southern part of the country, there was a monastery created by Him.

\* \* \*

The next morning, Han found Wen near a house wall. He was trying to go through it, repeating the same sequence of yesterday’s movements. He tried to do everything exactly. But the difference was that

there was not the smiling Face of Master Heavenly Heart on the other side of the wall!

Wen repeated his attempts again and again until the laughter and the gentle voice of Han interrupted his efforts:

“There is one small condition about which you forgot. This condition is the Will of Tao! The actions of this type can be fulfilled only in accordance with Its Great Will! Only under this condition, the unbelievable and impossible may take place!”

\* \* \*

The same morning in another part of the country, the guards found an unknown man in the prison instead of the monk Wen and his disciples.

Because the other prisoners were absent, He was brought to the leader of the detachment to be executed.

“Where are the others?” — the commander of the invaders asked the guards.

“They are where you can’t find them!” — Master Heavenly Heart answered instead of them.

“Who are you? And how dare you speak without my permission?” — without holding back his anger and indignation, the commander shouted.

“I am the One Who knows how things are created from the formless and how they disappear in it. I am the Perceiver of the Will of Tao and Te. I have come here to stop this senseless cruelty!”

“Well, then you are the one who will have to die!”

**“It is impossible!” — Master Heavenly Heart replied with a gentle smile. — “You can’t kill Me because I am Immortal!**

**“However, you, as a soul, are immortal too, although you don’t understand this yet. This is why, you are the one who will die again and again as a body until the knowledge about the soul and the love for Tao becomes for you more important than the life filled with a thirst for power and material things!”**

**... Having decided that a mad monk was before him, the leader did not want to listen anymore and gave the order to kill the prisoner. He was very annoyed by the fact that everything was not as he expected...**

**Yet when the guards tried to execute Master Heavenly Heart, their weapons passed through His translucent body without causing Him any harm. The guards became horrified, and their leader felt his complete feebleness...**

**Calmly smiling, Master Heavenly Heart said:**

**“Never show your strength over the vanquished!**

**“Cause no harm to innocent people!**

**“And tell your superiors what you have seen and heard!**

**“Fulfill all that I have said — and only then you will be able to live your life with dignity!”**

**\* \* \***

**After this incident, the nomads, who seized the majority of China, did not cause harm to spiritual abodes anymore and honored the wisdom of Those Who cognized Tao.**

This continued even when those nomads later came to power in all of China.

It happens that the one who is considered defeated may be stronger than the conquerors.

The spiritual knowledge about Tao and Te remained in China and passed from one generation to another, from Masters to disciples.

And always there were those who were willing to devote their lives to this cognition.

## **Han**

### **Parable on Power and Love**

In ancient times in China, there lived a boy named Yunshen.

From childhood, he dreamed of becoming an invincible warrior, unequaled in sword-wielding and able to defeat any opponent with or without the aid of weapons.

At that time, martial arts were in great honor. A person who was skillful in battle was admired by everyone.

Yunshen studied for several years under several famous teachers who were masters of different styles of combat. But he wanted more.

He participated in many competitions, perfecting his skills. He always tried to notice and learn anything new.

But one day, Yunshen lost a fight with one opponent, who was far superior to all the participants of the contest — by his cool demeanor and power. His skills impressed the young man.

Yunshen asked him:

“Who trained you in the skill of warfare?”

“I had a mentor who has no worthy adversary. His name is Shenli. But do not dream that you will be able to learn from him and become stronger than I!

“It would not be wise to go to him. His treatment to students is violent. And he shows these special techniques, only to six disciples who are elected after years of prior training. The rest of them are just kicked out with contempt, called unworthy of power and a waste of time.

“He lives in the mountains and requires austerity and complete obedience from his students. He **selects just** a very few students to study from him.

“Every six years, he arranges competitions for those who want to learn from him and selects a few people for preliminary study.

“And for the closest disciples — after several years of study — he conducts a final exam. First, they fight among themselves. The winner among them then fights against the teacher himself. And whoever bests the teacher — will be the successor and will lead the school.

“But still none of the students **has** been able to surpass him.

“And when the best of the students is defeated, Shenli expels him as well.

“I did not learn from him for a long time, but I do not envy those who were stronger than me and stayed to study further.”

... This story interested Yunshen, because, even if after a short training in combat skills the student of Shenli differed so much from all those whom

**Yunshen had met before — then how great must be the skill of the teacher and his best students!**

**And he went in search of the mentor Shenli. He was lucky because this was the very year that the teacher selected candidates as students.**

**... In the qualifying contest, Yunshen won one combat after the other and was the best. He was among the selected few who were accepted by Shenli for training.**

**\* \* \***

**But the joy of this success began to fade quickly.**

**Life next to the teacher was filled with such cold sternness that enjoying anything was impossible.**

**The more success a student achieved, the harder he was criticized so that the pride of achievements could not arise in him.**

**The body pain from the blows received during training was a mere trifle compared to the pain that was caused by communication with Shenli.**

**For a long time, Yunshen could not get used to how the mentor ridiculed any mistake of a student! And it happened always, whether it was at mastering methods of combat, or when cooking, or cleaning the school grounds. His caustic verbal comments were stronger and sharper than the sword blows!**

**Friendships between students, and helping one another — were punished at the school. Each person was to be responsible only for himself. And if a student tried to hurt anyone out of envy or resentment — it also was instantly punished.**

Only cold imperturbable calm under any circumstance and an iron-hard self-control with no emotional outbursts **were** cultivated. Steel will had to be sharper than any sword in order to send any blow or to parry any attack.

One day, Yunshen had the courage to ask the teacher: why ridicule and humiliate the offending student? Is it not simpler to speak privately about this? Everyone is striving to become better!

Shenli replied:

“It is necessary! If insults and humiliations bring the student out of balance, he is not a warrior! He will lose the fight, giving in to emotions, if his opponent were to offend him!

“This world is cruel, and only the fittest can win in it!

“And each of these lessons is always useful for everyone, and not just for individuals!”

... Gradually Yunshen developed an iron will and endurance. He ceased to feel compassion for those who were near. He no longer tried to either protect other students from the wrath of Shenli, or to try to help them. He calmly looked at how, broken and unable to withstand the test, the student left the school. “Well, such is the fate of the weak! Perhaps, this will be my fate...” — Yunshen calmly thought.

Yunshen became accustomed to complying peacefully when Shenli mocked him, turning his slightest weakness into a subject for sarcastic comments. This continued up until such errors were eliminated completely.

He became used to the **cold and despising** silence of the mentor, to rare and dry words of approval, which could not even be rejoiced, because

such emotions would instantly be met by a swift retribution from the teacher.

... So Yunshen's skills in the control of his body and weapons during training increased manifold.

But, it took six years. And soon, the last exams at Shenli's school approached when the best student had to be selected, who was to fight against the mentor.

Yunshen was selected as the best by winning all the fights between students.

The fight between the instructor and the student started. Yunshen suddenly realized that he was stronger than his mentor, he saw how to defeat Shenli... But for a split second, he allowed himself to stop and feel sorry for the one who taught him all this... In that very moment, he was knocked to the ground by a blow of Shenli...

"Wimp, get away from here! You have not learned anything in all these years! How much efforts I spent on you — and all in vain! And you could have been the best! You were tempering your spirit and learned to have an invincible will! You will never become the winner, because you have not learned the law that only one person can ever be the strongest! You still are governed by the emotions of an insignificant little man!"

... Yunshen felt the familiar flow of hatred in the speech of his teacher. But it seemed to him that Shenli felt great relief that he had not been defeated...

... Well, that was the end of his studies with Shenli...

Yunshen bowed and walked away.

His mentor spat at him and turned to the other students, who were now dreaming to take his place...

\* \* \*

For many weeks Yunshen traveled aimlessly without a goal, not knowing where to go. He knew he had mastered the great skills of warfare, but it did not bring him satisfaction.

The dream of his youth was, seemingly, achieved... But it was crowned by a defeat, not a victory...

Something important was still not understood...

He also thought: was it right that he spared Shenli?... But no: he understood that he did not want to take his place, becoming the same person as Shenli...

But how and for what purpose should he live now?

Yunshen... simply walked. The emptiness of an indifferent and cruel world surrounded him from all sides. And it made life... meaningless.

Lifeless mountains were all around. The blue sky was cold and indifferent. Blades of grass on the edges of mountain trails looked submissive and contemptibly weak...

“The world around you looks the way that you look at it yourself!” — he heard a soft, deep voice.

Yunshen saw Master Heavenly Heart, Who went to meet him.

Certainly, Yunshen did not know Who was in front of him. But the Strength and Peace of the Trav-

eler were so great that it was impossible not to feel them.

The Stranger continued:

“Your world is empty, because your heart is devastated and does not know love!”

“Who are you to lecture me?”

“I am the One Who could be your Teacher. But you’re not ready to learn yet, although you have learned much already.

“Failures teach us more than victories.”

“Well, then defeat me! Let’s fight with swords!” — Yunshen said, thinking that he had met his adversary.

He offered Master Heavenly Heart his second sword, because the Master was unarmed.

“I do not need a weapon to win,” — Master Heavenly Heart said calmly.

“But how can I fight against someone who is unarmed?”

“I am not unarmed! Try to cut me with any weapon — and you will see how far you are from the perfection in the knowledge that you possess!”

... The fight was unusual. Yunshen dealt severe blows, but Master Heavenly Heart reflected every impact with His palm, and the sword could not even touch His hand, which possessed an unknown Power.

And then Master Heavenly Heart did not reflect the impact — and the sword of Yunshen passed through His body without causing any harm.

“Love triumphs even where nothing else can win! Those who are *One* with Tao, cannot be killed, and nothing can harm Them! Their Love is infinite, and It coincides with the Ocean of Tao!”

**“I would like to be your disciple!” — Yunshen said and bowed to the Master.**

**“My name is Master Heavenly Heart. I will teach you, but not now.**

**“You liked the fact that air, at the behest of the Consciousness, can become dense, like a shield, and that human flesh — can become permeable, like water! But this is... just a spray of the Ocean of Power!**

**“Now you must find out what love is, and learn the lessons of love in the life of this world. Then — come to Me, and I will teach you that Love Which is the Creating and the Enduring Power of Tao!**

**“I’ll wait for you, Yunshen!”**

**\* \* \***

**Yunshen was used to performing any job perfectly: he learned — over many years of study — discipline in the execution of each task. His will was the will of a winner, which reaches any desired goal!**

**Yunshen set a goal — to find out: what is “worldly” love.**

**He remembered everything he knew about kindness and love. He went and tried to be kind to those who, according to his ideas, needed it. For example, he lived for a few days in the house of a lonely old woman and did all the work, which required the strong hands of a man.**

**He now liked to help people in a selfless way. However, he understood that he still did not know everything that he needed to learn.**

... Soon he arrived at a big city. There he found a hotel where women — for a fee — gave men pleasure and affection.

He lived there for more than one day.

“It was very nice, but can it really bring one to the Perfection? Is that love?” — Yunshen thought.

Once, when Yunshen came out of that hotel, he saw the hostess and a very skinny and pale girl.

The hostess told her:

“Do not make me laugh! I will not let you work here! Your bones will not be attractive for any visitor!”

“But maybe I could wash the floors or dishes?” — the girl uttered gingerly.

“Go away and do not disgrace my establishment! It is — for solid clients!”

... The girl sadly lowered her eyes and began to leave.

Yunshen felt sorry for the poor girl, thinking: “Apparently, she has been hungry for a long time! And things are not going well in her life!”

He called out to the girl:

“Wait a minute! What’s your name?”

“Siuli.”

“Come with me, let’s have lunch over there!” — he pointed to the tavern.

Siuli looked up in surprise:

“I have no money, sir! I have nothing to pay with...”

“That’s why I invite you. Do not worry, I will not hurt you!”

... They ate rice...

Siuli tried to eat slowly, and almost did not take her eyes away from the bowl. Only sometimes she, for a few seconds, raised her eyes to Yunshen.

“Do you have any relatives?” — he asked.

“Yes, my uncle lives in the city beyond those mountains. He does not know that I’ve been all alone since my father died. I was on my way there...”

“I, too, was on my way there!” — Yunshen said.

“Would you like, sir, to be so gracious as to let me go with you? My uncle must be a good man, and he could repay you for the food.”

“You do not owe me anything, Siuli! And I will walk with you to your uncle. The road over the mountains is hard and very long. I’ll take you with me, but on one condition: you will tell me what you know about love.”

“What you have done for me, sir, can also be called love! After all, you were ready to help a completely unknown girl!”

“I did not think that love could be so simple! For many years, I was taught how to forget what is kindness and compassion. But I, it turns out, can still remember it. And it is very nice!

“It will be better if you tell me about yourself: if I help one whom I know — I will more confidently assume that I have known what love is!”

Siuli smiled for the first time since they met:

“It seems you know how to joke, sir! But currently, I have little to say. I know calligraphy and how to draw. My father taught me, and he was a good artist. But he was ill for a long time before his death, and, for the debts, we have lost all our property. And now, if had not been for you, I would have died of starvation.”

**“And my name is Yunshen. I know how to fight with any kind of weapon and without weapons. Today, this city will hold a contest. I will win the prize — and we will have enough money for the journey! If you want, I’ll buy you accessories for writing and drawing.”**

**Siuli was confused:**

**“I could never accept such a gift: it’s very expensive!**

**“But why do you believe that you will win all the contests?”**

**“I know only one Master Who can defeat me. But I do not think that He will try to challenge me for the prize, because you and I need money for the journey!**

**“Our meeting with that Master still lies ahead, and you will help me to get closer to it!**

**“And please, do not dignify me as ‘sir’: because you’re not my servant, and we have a long road ahead together!”**

**\* \* \***

**And, in fact, Yunshen won all the contests. Siuli, closing her eyes in fear, just waited until the end of the competitions.**

**Under the enthusiastic cries of the crowd of spectators, the prize was delivered to Yunshen.**

**“Well, now let’s go to the market!”**

**Yunshen bought food and everything that they needed for the journey: because they had to travel over the mountains. Then he gave Siuli the opportunity to choose the brushes, ink, and paper.**

They stopped to spend the night in a hotel — so that the next day they could leave early in the morning.

“Today you did not tell me anything about love...”

“Can I answer without words?”

“How?”

Siuli quickly made a remarkable drawing, on which was written the hieroglyph “thanks” and the branch of a blossoming peach tree.

Yunshen looked at the picture for a long time. It seemed that even the empty space on the paper was full of tenderness, and each flower petal was opened as if it was giving away a kiss.

Yunshen knew how the power of the soul can be collected into a single point, to then be sent as an irresistible blow on the enemy.

But here, in this picture, — there was also a special power of the soul, which, however, sounded like... a gentle melody...

... In the morning, when the owner of the hotel saw the drawing, he asked to keep it in lieu of payment. He told Yunshen that such a great artist had never before stopped here.

Yunshen wanted to assert that it was not he — who was the artist, and that he would not give up the drawing, but Siuli went in front of him and whispered:

“Let him take it: the drawing will hang here for many years in memory of our meeting. It will please many people! And I will draw more! And do not tell him that I drew it: you will not be believed!”

They left, leaving the drawing to be placed in the hotel.

**“Why did you not permit me to say that it was your creation?”**

**“In the past, I once tried to sell my drawings. But I was accused of stealing them, and they took away everything. A woman is not supposed to be able to do something that only a man should do...”**

**\* \* \***

**They went to the pass by using the mountain trails. By noon, Yunshen started to see that Siuli had already begun to lag behind.**

**“I’ll catch up now!” — she cried every time when Yunshen stopped to wait for her.**

**Soon Yunshen realized the **cause:** Siuli, who was unaccustomed to such travels, had **chafed her feet by the straps of her wooden sandals to the point that they were bleeding.****

**“Why did you not say so immediately?” — he shook his head to Yunshen. — “Now you will not be able to walk for several days!”**

**He scanned the surrounding area and found certain leaves, which help in the healing of wounds.**

**He seated Siuli on a flat rock and bandaged her feet.**

**“Now hang on my back, otherwise we will lose a lot of time.”**

**“No-no! I’ll try to walk by myself!”**

**But Yunshen urged Siuli to accept his suggestion. She grabbed him by the neck and clung to his back. He picked up her legs under the knees. In this manner, they continued on their way.**

\* \* \*

One night, instead of a story about what love is, Siuli said:

“I love you, Yunshen! And now, I myself know exactly what love is! But I cannot explain it...”

He kissed her lips which were saying the words of love.

“You are a good mentor, Siuli! Thanks to you, I am gradually starting to understand it myself.”

... The next morning, they continued their journey over the mountains. The sky was singing to them songs of love, gentle mountain flowers were smiling at their happiness, the wind played with their hair and caressed their faces with transparent kisses. The world around was filled with happiness! Life now had a meaning, since it was lit by love!

Yunshen recalled the words of Master Heavenly Heart: “The world around you looks the way that you look at it yourself!”

“What a wonderful world this is, if it is full of love!” — Yunshen said.

... During this time, Yunshen told his beloved Siuli how he studied under mentor Shenli, and how he met Master Heavenly Heart.

He suggested that they go to find Master Heavenly Heart, instead of going to the uncle of Siuli. She agreed.

“Do you think that I, too, can learn from Him?” — Siuli asked with some trepidation.

“I think so: He suggested that I cognize what love is, and you are the one who has given me this treasure!”

\* \* \*

Once they reached the mountains, they were met by a heavy downpour. It caused landslides and avalanches.

Having noticed the safest place, Yunshen dragged Siuli there — and just in time: a hail of stones and clay fell on the spot where they had just stood.

“Hurry! Over there we can be saved!” — Yunshen pointed to the stable overhanging ledge of a solid stone monolith ahead. They rushed there, but Siuli kept slipping and falling. Then Yunshen asked her to again climb on his back and clasp his neck. They were only a few meters away from reaching the safe place when the trail under Yunshen’s legs collapsed... He held onto the ledge with great difficulty, his hands were slipping. They were hanging over the precipice. And suddenly he realized that Siuli, to save him, released her hands. In just a small fraction of a second — he grabbed her with one hand, almost falling into the terrible abyss... He gathered all his strength of consciousness and body into one point — and accomplished the impossible: they were able to get out...

He was now grateful to Shenli for that strength and agility, for instant reflexes and the ability to see the space around, which Shenli had taught him!...

They reached the safe overhang and were able to take shelter there from the rain, wind, and streams of stones and clay, falling from the mountain slope.

Yunshen hugged Siuli, who was trembling, and realized... how fragile and insecure was the happiness that was granted to them by Heaven during the last few days...

Questions about the purpose of life and death stood before him...

In the past, his life and the lives of other people seemed to him as only insignificant episodes in the life of the Land under Heaven — but now, the life of this fragile and delicate girl meant so much to him!

And what would have happened, if he had not caught her?

And where would they be now, if their bodies had died?

What will Master Heavenly Heart be able to teach them? Does He have the answers to these questions?

And the main question: how to find Him?

\* \* \*

For a long time, Yunshen and Siuli searched for Master Heavenly Heart. But it was to no avail.

None of the local residents had even heard about Him.

Once, Siuli said:

“If Master Heavenly Heart is Immortal, He can hear our thoughts and knows our intentions. Apparently, we still do not correctly understand something. When we understand this — He Himself will come to us or we will find the way to Him! It costs nothing for Him to come to the place where He is needed!”

“Yes, you’re right, Siuli!

“Let’s try to figure out why we want to find Him. Let’s imagine that He is standing right in front of us, and let’s tell Him: why we want to find Him.”

**“I always wanted to learn to paint so that a spectator, seeing the picture, hears the birds singing in the silence, or the rustle of leaves, or even perceive how fragrant the flowers are. And — looking at the portrait, one could see the character and thoughts of the person who was drawn. And — seeing the image of a mountain brook, one could strive to move together with it through the valley to reach the sea. And so that the beauty of the Earth, from the dizzying heights to the depths of the sea, could be shown to souls!**

**“I want Love to live in each line of a drawing and be a source of light for those souls which know how to love.**

**“But do I maybe dream of the impossible?**

**“My father told me that One, Who has cognized Tao, creates Beauty, drawing it from the Infinite Source!**

**“He said that Tao can manifest Himself in the Creation — with the help of Those Who have cognized Tao.**

**“I did not dare admit, even to myself, that I dreamed to be like Those Immortals Who can tune people’s hearts to Love and turn them away from evil thoughts and deeds...**

**“And now — it’s your turn, Yunshen! Speak, as if Master Heavenly Heart hears you: why do you want to learn from Him?”**

**“Before, I wanted to be a warrior and did everything for this. But then I met Master Heavenly Heart and learned how imperfect were my skills!...**

**“He instructed me to cognize love. And you gave me the knowledge of it!**

**“But I have also realized how fragile and insecure is that which we love in the Creation and try to keep!**

**“You and I need to cognize that Love that is connected to the Power of Tao — to understand the purpose of life and death, action and non-action.**

**“I would like to serve Tao with everything that I already know, and with all that which I will one day learn!**

**“It is said that there is a spiritual Alchemy that transforms both the body and soul. And that everything, which is cognized as internal energies in the art of combat, are only small traces of that Knowledge, which must be cognized as the *Great Ultimate*.”**

**... They fell silent.**

**They became surrounded by an amazing resonating, transparent Silence! It was as if the whole universe listened to their words and intentions...**

**But nothing happened.**

**... Yunshen and Siuli continued their quest and their journey.**

**\* \* \***

**One morning, Yunshen said:**

**“Today I had a dream. It was like I was floating in the most subtle and gentle Fire. And my every movement in this Heavenly Fire joined this Fire-Space with the space within my body. And Master Heavenly Heart smiled and said something to me, but I cannot remember His words...**

**“Perhaps, we ourselves must seek the Truth and, as far as possible, help others to do the same.**

**“Since we cannot find Master Heavenly Heart, let’s open a school for children. You can teach them to read and draw. And I’ll try to teach them how to make the body healthy and clean.”**

**“How can we teach, when we ourselves do not have the Knowledge?”**

**“Let’s suppose that we are now able to share a little: namely, just that which we ourselves have already learned. But by trying to help others — love lives! After all, you taught me this!”**

**... And then Yunshen and Siuli felt like the clear air around became filled with the Great Silence and Peace. In the area around them, there was the presence of the Living Light-Love. Then, this Light turned into the huge form of a smiling Face, beaming with Tenderness. Then the outlines disappeared, and Master Heavenly Heart stepped out to them from the Light. His body acquired a visible and tangible form, like an ordinary human body. And yet — this body was unusual: it was filled with unshakable Calm and emitted the Light.**

**Master Heavenly Heart said:**

**“I am pleased to welcome you, Yunshen! And I am glad to introduce Myself to you, dear Siuli!**

**“You both have very quickly and successfully passed the tests and lessons, which a soul must pass in order to enter the Path of Cognition of the Great Mysteries of the Creator and the Creation!**

**“You both have found the heart love, which is needed on the Path of cognizing the meaning of life and the cognition of Tao and Te!**

**“Now the ancient Teachings of Tao are forgotten by most people. People do not remember about the rectitude that was taught by Lao Tse! And man is**

looking for how to win and excel over others — in wealth, strength, and the ability to fight...

“But the power of the consciousness must not serve this purpose! Dangerous is the path of striving for strength, power, and glory that people now seek! Growing the strength of one’s coarseness and cruelty — distracts one from the real meaning of life!

“Not many, who start their search in the pursuit of strength, are able, later on, to cognize subtlety and Love!

“Those who think about how to destroy, attack, and kill... — waste so much time in vain!

“Having understood this, you can come closer to understanding the Laws of Tao.

“The lifespan of humans on the Earth has become short. But still people waste their lives! They are finding pleasure for themselves... — in fighting each other! Then they grow old and die, not comprehending why they came here and where they go! Bodies become decrepit, minds weaken... — and earthly lives pass in vain, without bringing one closer to the Truth!

“All ‘morality’ is now reduced to worshiping dead ancestors and sacrificing to them...

“Yes, care and respect for the elderly — are commendable, as well as taking care of wives and properly raising children!

“But, to worship the dead, who were unaware of the Light, — cannot bring one closer to the Light!

“There are things that can be beneficial for oneself and for one’s own family. There are also things that can be beneficial for the entire state... However, there are Higher Laws that are applied even to the rulers among people! And the decline of the founda-

tions of ethics by people and their rulers — could lead a country to ruin...

“The clear Teachings of Lao Tse are now studied only in some monasteries...

“And there is so much distortion in the interpretations of the Teachings of Tao! The mentors teach of emptiness and non-doing, but they do not know, do not understand that which they decided to teach!

“I would like to return the doctrine of Tao back to its pristine purity for the people on the Earth!

“The great Alchemy of souls is needed to bring them to the cognition of Tao. This is a huge labor for souls and bodies. Understand: if the bodily energies are coarse — the Light of Tao is incognizable. To reside and act in a body which contains coarse energies — is the way to gain a foothold in the coarse and heavy states of a soul!

“The Light of Te and the Peace of Tao are the *Greatest Subtleties!* Tao is the *Subtlest* of everything in the universe! Therefore, cognition of Tao is sometimes called the comprehension of the *Great Ultimate!*

“And you now have to work hard on soul and bodily energies to transform them and make them similar to the Light and Fire of Te, and then — to the Transparent Calm of Tao!

“There are some simple basics of spiritual knowledge.

“Just as the meaning and spelling of hieroglyphs are needed to be able to read and write — so the basics of the structure and life of a soul and a body will be needed for you to explore and master the Path of cognition of Tao!

**“Tao takes into **Itself** Those Who have reached **Its** Great Peace.**

**“Tao also creates everything by the Fire Power. And **It** supports and manages it — through the help of Great Te.**

**“To start on the **Path of Knowledge**, it is necessary to purify, **open and grow** the spiritual heart that allows the soul to cognize the worlds of Light, Purity, and Subtlety!**

**“It is necessary to know and to clear the seven centers in the body and the meridians, which connect them. This will give the ability to manage your emotions and other movements of the soul. This can be achieved by means of specific exercises.**

**“When the bodily energies have become pure, and when the soul has become the mistress in the space of inner silence of the developed spiritual heart, and when man can manage his or her desires and emotions effectively — then you will be ready for more! Those are the great accomplishments of the soul!**

**“I will only lightly outline the milestones of the **Path**.**

**“It is necessary to:**

**‘Connect your love and the Love of Tao.**

**‘Connect the will of the soul with the Will of Tao.**

**‘Connect thinking with the Wisdom of Tao.**

**‘Connect the fire of the soul’s love with the Fire of all Te.**

**‘Serve all beings of the **Earth** — with those skills that you have obtained.’**

**“Do you agree to devote your earthly lives to this?”**

**... Yunshen and Siuli said “yes” in high regard.**

... Thus our story ends. And **such studies become available** only to those who have fully dedicated their lives to cognition of Tao and to serving It!

## **Mahavira**

### **Parable about the Creator of the Crossing**

A boy named Vir was sitting next to his grandfather and listening to his stories about ancient heroes.

More than everything else, Vir loved this time, when they stayed alone together and his grandfather told Vir ancient legends and tales.

“Tell me about the *Creator of the Crossing!*” — Vir asked. It was his favorite story. He had heard it many times, but again and again asked his grandfather to narrate it. It seemed to him that this story someday might become reality. And right here, to this room in their home, the Immortal Teacher would come and say: ‘Vir, now it’s your turn to become a Hero!’”

Grandpa looked affectionately at his grandson:

“You know this legend by heart! Well, never mind, listen:

“Once upon a time, people and the Great Divine Immortals lived close together.

“People sometimes asked the Immortals about what was needed for them — and the Immortals helped, fulfilling their petitions. It was so, because people asked Them about what they really needed.

**They did not disturb the Immortals with the fulfillment of their idle desires.**

**“In those times, the Immortal Divine Teachers taught people to use fire, to write words with the help of letters, to treat diseases and so on.**

**“But the most important thing that the immortals taught people was how to become like Them, that is, Loving, Wise, Omnipotent, and... Immortal.**

**“And there were Those among people Who mastered this! They then went to live with Immortals, among Them!**

**“But there were also people who only wanted to obtain the Great Divine super abilities. They also learned from the Immortal Masters. But they wanted to have the power and authority not for serving the Great Primordial Consciousness, Which has created everything, and not for helping other beings in their development, but for... controlling the processes in the world in accordance with their desires and for their own profit.**

**“They did not understand that which is most important: the developed perfect Love is what allows the Immortal Masters to live in Unity with the infinite in time and space Great Ocean of the Primordial Consciousness. And only that Consciousness alone has the ability to create everything material in the universe and control it.**

**“The Great Immortals saw the uncleanness of the intentions of those people and strove to help them to change. But the perverted minds of those people did not want to clear themselves from personal selfish desires. Using the power of consciousnesses, those people wanted, for their own profit, only to control other people. Additionally, they began**

praising themselves before people, saying that they alone could communicate with the Immortals and pass petitions of people to Them. And they called themselves *priests*.

“Their influence on people became great. People began to seek advice and help only from them and not from the Immortals.

“The power of those priests strengthened gradually. But they did not have the ability to perceive the Divine, because the Immortals do not cooperate with people who have egocentrism.

“Many bad things were done by those priests to strengthen their own power and profits. But the saddest thing of all was that they replaced the real learning from the Divine Teachers with rituals...

“Then the Immortals decided that They should not help people anymore, as They had done it before. Let people themselves be convinced of their own wrong choices on their own mistakes.

“And the Perfect Immortals moved away from the material plane and separated the invisible Divine world from the material world, in which embodied mortals lived. The Immortals began living where sights of ordinary people could not penetrate.

“From that moment, the Immortal Teachers helped only kind and loving incarnate people. The rest were given to their own difficult destinies, which they themselves chose, allowing priests to lead their lives...

“A lot of misery and suffering was in the material world where embodied people lived... And this encouraged some of them to start finding the way out of this situation.

**“... So, once a kind and strong young man decided to help those who were unhappy by all means! He intended to return the opportunity to communicate with the Divine Immortal Masters to those people! He wanted to find the way into the Abode of the Immortals, into the world of the Primordial Consciousness, so that all people could traverse this Path after him and obtain the highest happiness in the Abode of all the Perfect Ones!**

**“His aspirations were so pure and sincere that the Divine Immortals sent the Divine Guide to meet him, since those who have not learned yet to see and orientate themselves in the subtle worlds can’t find the Path to this Abode on their own. And those who have not become like the Divine Immortals cannot enter there.**

**“This Immortal Divine Guide was as old as the Earth itself. But His body was young and full of strength. He carried in Himself Love, Joy, and Peace — and radiated them to all directions. The Divine Light of the morning sun streamed from His body.**

**“The young man asked the Immortal Guide to show him the Path to the Abode of the Perfect Ones so that he could open this Path to other people.**

**“The Immortal asked the young man:**

**‘Do you agree to spend the rest of your life traversing this Path?’**

**‘Yes!’ — the young man answered.**

**‘Will you not become scared when you face difficulties that await everyone who dares to transform himself of herself from a usual man — into the Man-Hero, who gradually becomes Divine by the qualities of the soul?’**

**‘I will not be scared,’ — the young man answered. — ‘And even if the fear becomes too strong for me, I will remember about those who are unhappy for whom I decided to overcome this Path. I will find strength to overcome the fear!’**

**‘Will you not become proud, obtaining power and knowledge? Will you not want to control people instead of helping them?’**

**‘If I wanted to learn to control people, I would become a disciple of the priests instead of seeking the Path!’**

**‘You answer well! I’ll try to teach you!**

**‘First, you need to learn to be the soul consisting only of caring love! It is so, because the Divine subtlety can grow only from this state!**

**‘To traverse the entire Path to the attainment of Divinity, you should grow as the soul and reach an enormous size that allows containing inside yourself the whole Earth and much more!**

**‘And then you should learn to dissolve yourself completely in the Mergence with the Greatest Divine Power!’**

**“... For many years the young man had been mastering the stages of the Path under the guidance of the Immortal Master. He passed through many tests. His practice resulted in that transformation of the soul which allows penetrating into the subtlest worlds — up to the Abode of all the Perfect. He started learning to enter that sacred Abode where the Divine Consciousnesses live in the Great Unity, forming the Great *Whole!***

**“And when his training was close to its end, he asked the Immortal Guide:**

**‘Now let me teach this Path to all people!’**

**‘Good! But before you go to people, build the crossing over that turbulent river!’ — the Immortal Guide said. — ‘I’ll wait for you on the opposite bank. Come to Me! And then I’ll tell you how to create a *Spiritual Crossing*, by using which, people can move from the bank of sansara, where suffering is, to the Bliss of Nirvana, where only One Creating Ocean of God — the Primordial Consciousness of the universe — is!’**

**“They came to the powerful mountain river that was carrying its waters, seething over the stones. This river was wide. And even in that place where the water reached the knees, the strength of the flow could knock one down, but there were also sites much deeper, with waterfalls and whirlpools.**

**‘Here you should build a crossing!’**

**“With these words, the Immortal Guide raised a huge fragment of rock to the air. The stone, having become weightless by His Will, was floating duteously through the air, while the Immortal Guide was correcting slightly its trajectory with His hands. Then He determined the place where the stone should be put and returned its weight to it. After this, He did the same with the next stone...**

**‘Well, like this, more or less, you need to act’ — the Immortal Guide said, observing His own work. — ‘But you will have to do this using only your personal power and not the Divine One. I’ll wait for you on the other side of the river until you finish building the crossing. And then I’ll teach you the laws according to which you can help people.**

**‘While you are helping people, you will learn to interact with the Great United Power, through Which**

everything in the material world can be created and transformed.'

"The Immortal Guide made two steps on the newly laid stones — and then His body became weightless. Barely touching the foam of the rapids with His feet, He easily crossed the river. On the other bank, He disappeared in a flash of Light...

"... The young man began to work.

"At first, it went easily, because nearby there were many flat stones suitable for the construction of the crossing. And the flow close to the bank was weak as well. This is why, he did all the work in the shallow water very quickly.

'Why did the Immortal Guide ask me to do this work instead of teaching me to make stones weightless and move them with the easiness He had?' — he thought... At that moment he stumbled on a slippery underwater stone, was washed away by the rapid stream and carried far down the river...

'It seems that I have to be more careful,' — the young man smiled, realizing his mistake. Having come out of the water, he returned to the place of the construction.

"He began his work anew.

"Once again he took a large flat rock, from which he wanted to make the next step, and walked.

"He easily passed along the way that he had already done before, confidently feeling with his feet every firm footing.

"Thus he reached the spot where he had slipped and had been washed away by the stream. Yet this time, he did not lose his balance and was able to place the next solid footing.

“... The young man worked long and diligently. More than once he stumbled and was carried away by the flow far down the river... Not once he struck against the rocks. Not once he swallowed water. In spite of all this, his determination did not leave him.

“Every time he fell, he stood up and continued his work. At last, he built the solid crossing!

“And when he finished, the great joy filled him: the path over the turbulent river in the world of matter was built! ‘Now the Immortal Guide will tell me how to explain to people the Path towards the Great Ultimate Happiness, that is, how to cross the ‘turbulent river’ and pass from the sansara to the achievement of Bliss of Nirvana!’

“... Right beside him, the Immortal Teacher appeared.

‘You have worked well: you crossed the river yourself. But *your crossing* turned out to be... too easy...

‘The spiritual Path is the *Crossing* from the material world to the world of the Primordial Consciousness. This Path should not give the possibility to those who do not want to walk it very much, but are just full of curiosity, to traverse it without effort...

‘That person who hasn’t worked by himself or herself but received everything ready, who hasn’t stumbled and hasn’t fallen — will not find the wisdom and strength!

‘The one who passed the *Spiritual Crossing* should only leave marks, milestones, on this Great Path in order to help others.

‘Look how many different ‘anchors’ and ‘ropes’ exist that do not allow the embodied people to break away from the world of sansara! Someone has a be-

loved one who does not want or cannot traverse this Path, but this person cannot leave them. Someone has unfinished worldly affairs. Someone has a desire to traverse this Path but is too scared. There are also those who really want this but are too weak; they will not reach the other bank because of lack of power...

‘Yet no one should remain in the middle of the *Spiritual Crossing!* It is like standing for a long time in the middle of the turbulent stream of this river! It is necessary to move forward or, at least, backward!

‘Everyone who started making the *Great Crossing* but then realized that it would be impossible now, will come back to the bank of sansara, being enriched with good experience, i.e. the knowledge about the traversed part of the Path.

‘To prepare people so that they can master, at least, a part of the *Crossing* is also significant. This, too, will be one of the tasks of your Service.

‘It is very important, at least, to let people know that the *Crossing* exists and that it’s possible to overcome the whole Path! Then their efforts, even the smallest ones, will make sense for their self-transformation!

‘But only that one who is not afraid of difficulties and who starts again and again overcoming the Path will be able to use the *Crossing* created by you!

‘What does it mean ‘to master the *Crossing*’? This means to know all the steps of the Path.

‘In this case, if one stumbles, one can repeat again and again what was already cognized, strengthening one’s previous achievements until the soul finally transforms itself into the Great Love, and the Fire of Nirvana becomes the Fire of one’s new Divine Spiritual Heart. After this, such a Heart will

serve other seekers as the Gate to the Primordial Abode of all the Perfect!

‘Now I’ll go. I have finished My work: I have explained to you the Eternal Path that allows perfecting the souls. But you will stay here, in the material world, and learn to help people.

‘You too are becoming the *Creator of the Crossing*. And you have to find and prepare those people who can overcome the whole Path! You will lead them as I led you!’

“After these words, the Immortal Guide disappeared. It was as if the tiny particles of His body vanished in the air...

“And the new *Creator of the Crossing* went to people to teach them what he had cognized.

## Lin

### How to Take in Beauty Along with Me

One person had seen the beautiful flowers that blossomed in the valley. He was filled with enthusiasm! He wanted to take and carry away at least a piece of this beauty, to possess it!

He tore off the flowers as much as he could carry. He brought them home and placed in vases... But very soon, deprived of their roots, they died...

“What a pity that the beauty is not eternal...” — grieved that person.

\* \* \*

An artist had found himself to be in the same valley with beautiful flowers. He was admiring the marvelous beauty that had appeared before him. And he had remembered the delightful view!

He had imprinted in the soul both the beautiful play of colors in corollas of bloomed flowers, and the whole valley, and bluish pierced by morning sunlight haze of light mist in the distant mountains...

He took away with him this beauty — as a great treasure! He hurried home, trying to remember everything and sketch what he saw!

And really — he was able to convey in his painting that beauty!

Subsequently, many people came to enjoy the picture. They were happy, admired!

... Flowers faded, times a year replaced not once, but the memory of the beauty was living in the picture and pleased, ennobled people — even centuries later!

\* \* \*

A Traveler passed through the same valley. He was also fascinated by the amazing beauty created by God! He had gathered the ripened seeds of the flowers and took them with Him.

And everywhere in suitable places, where ran His way, he sowed the seeds.

And the beauty of the Earth was multiplying. Every year ascended sown seeds were waking up, and wonderful flowers blossomed!

... A Traveler was walking on the land, driven by God, and sowed the seeds of Beauty, Wisdom and Goodness in the hearts of people.

And it was not only the beauty of flowers that He had cognized on His way!

He walked on the land and sowed the seeds of ever reviving and developing the great Beauty of the spiritual life that He had cognized and therefore had a right to multiply wisely!

## **Philip-the-Apostle**

### Story-Parable on the Thirst for Truth

Paul finally got lost in the endless desert... All around him, there were sand dunes as far as the eye could see. The sandstorm was over. But that, which was the likeness of a road, had disappeared without a trace...

Now he understood how vain he was to not follow the advice to wait out the bad weather and start on the trip later.

It had seemed to him that a couple of hours of driving could not have promised danger. He had thought to himself:

“Why put off the departure for a few days, when I can just as easily get there today?...”

To repair the car — it was not possible...

... More than a week had already passed from that “today” of his departure. He spent three days near the broken and sand-covered car. Then he decided to go — to go, relying on the Will of God. His chances of survival — were already almost gone.

**There was no more water left. To even think about how stupid it was to spend the water, which was with him, was unbearable...**

**The path that he had to overcome during that day, seemed endless...**

**\* \* \***

**The desert — is always a desert... Modern civilization only pretends that it can affect the desert.**

**In the afternoon — there is exhausting heat, at night — there is piercing cold...**

**The cars and camels for tourists and travelers, the hotel with a hint of European comfort — all of this felt as if it belonged in another world.**

**... Mirages in the desert...**

**He considered stories of mirages as fiction. For he himself, as a famous writer, also wrote about them.**

**Now these “fictions” pursued him. How many times he saw as if a lake surrounded by trees — and walked out with the last of his strength to it...**

**He tried not to believe the mirages. But, nevertheless, he would go to where he imagined salvation. It was necessary to at least do something! To just sit and wait for death was not in his nature.**

**\* \* \***

**One evening he spoke to God: “If You want to take me out of here, do it right now! But if my life has meaning and is needed for You — show me the way of salvation!”**

**Paul did not even really know what God he was referring to. How much he has read in books!... And he himself has written about the beliefs and religions of many different nations...**

**But now — to Whom did he cry with all the soul?**

**He even almost laughed at this thought.**

**But the confidence that this is the only right way — strengthened in him: “There must be One Who is called the Heavenly Father, the Creator!...”**

**Paul asked Him to show the way or end his life right now.**

**He did not insist. He just asked Him to give him an answer, a way out... into life or into death: “Let Him decide. If He exists, the Merciful and Almighty, — let me know the answer!”**

**He went to sleep with the thought that he, most likely, would not wake up here in this world, in this desert.**

**... But, when the morning came, nothing had changed.**

**The cold night was replaced by the scorching heat...**

**He walked and walked, without hope, simply walking, losing his last strength from fatigue and from a thirst which was an endless as the desert.**

**\* \* \***

**Suddenly he saw footprints in the sand — the recent traces of human feet!**

**There was no one around. But this could not be a mirage: the tracks were here, at his feet, he could touch them with his hands!**

Paul cried out, using all the last remnants of his strength.

The hoarse cry, escaping from his parched throat, seemed for him weak and miserable. He screamed again, calling for help to the person who had passed by here recently.

The desert answered him with silence.

He went on the trail of an unknown person. It was his last hope.

Paul tried to think about how God... had manifested Himself! He, Paul, had asked Him to show the way — and now he knows the direction!

It was getting dark, and Paul was not able to catch up with the unknown traveler.

Hope almost left him: in fact, to make out the footprints, which were increasingly being covered by sand in the dark, was no longer possible.

But another miracle happened: he saw a fire in the distance!

Paul strained with the last of his strength, repeating to himself, like a mantra, a phrase from some book about deserts that *mirages do not happen at night*.

The fire did not disappear.

\* \* \*

Paul approached the fire in the infinitely thick darkness...

Finally, he entered the circle of light from the small campfire.

A man was sitting by the fire. He was not an Arab. He could be called European. He was dressed in light-colored clothes, with a woolen cape on top of

them. If the former Paul, the one who could easily sneer over all people, had been here in his place — then that “old Paul” would say that this stranger was dressed in a costume like some kind of actor depicting a hermit in the desert in the days of the early Christians.

But now Paul was not in the mood for skepticism or irony.

The stranger nodded calmly to Paul in greeting and looked up at him with his quite amazing eyes, in which one could plunge — and seem to drown, disappear.

The man gestured to him to sit by the fire.

He pulled out from the folds of his clothing a clay bowl and handed it to Paul. The cup was suddenly filled with water...

Not quite knowing what happened, Paul said with dry lips:

“Can I drink it?”

“Yes, you may quench your thirst,” — the stranger’s voice was just as amazing as his eyes. The infinity of Peace itself seemed to sound in them... But Paul felt all this by only some part of himself, which this voice, coming from the *depths* of the unknown, raised here and enveloped him with the gentle presence of something mysterious...

... Paul remembered how one day he had wanted to interview a certain Indian who lived as a hermit in a mountain cave. Back then, he had spent a lot of effort to make a sensational report about the yoga of India. But the hermit did not answer his questions. He only said to Paul: “You’re not ready yet!” And then sang a single sound mantra... The way it sounded — it was the sound of the infinite Silence. It

did not sound like the nasal chanting mantras of the “gurus” whom he had encountered in India at every step. Paul wrote something about this subject in his journal, but then for some reason, he almost forgot about this episode in the bustle and whirl of life...

The stranger’s voice was like that sound, but he said the most common of words.

... And now Paul... drank, and drank, and drank... He waited for all that water to deplete, but it did not end...

“You can stop for a while: the water will not end and will always be there when you need it,” — the stranger said with a smile.

Paul, with some difficulty, pulled away from the bowl and put it, still full, next to himself.

Then the stranger held out his hand to Paul, as if giving him something. Paul stared for a few seconds at the graceful palm, lit by the light of the fire, until he saw that bread was resting on the palm.

Bread — it suddenly appeared!... Or rather it could be said that the bread... had become visible...

Paul took the still warm hunk with his slightly trembling hands and thanked Him. The stranger nodded in response.

Fatigue and something else, like a thick transparent peace, enveloped Paul from all sides, and did not allow him to be surprised or frightened. Everything was... as if normal. It was as if every day he drank water from the bowl, which does not end, and ate materialized bread.

Then the Stranger offered Paul to rest.

“Can I ask You a question?”

“Ask”.

“Are You — a hallucination?”

**“Yes, I thought that of all the questions you could have asked, you would ask exactly this!” — He laughed loudly and held out His hand to Paul, on which He had just materialized the bread, — so that Paul could touch it.**

**The hand was amazingly beautiful, with thin graceful fingers. The skin of the Stranger was covered with the smooth golden tan of a man with white skin, who spends much time in the sun. The Stranger was of the flesh, which could be touched.**

**“Yes, this body of Mine is a material reality right now,” — He confirmed. — “But there is also another Reality. And just because it is not material, does not mean that it is not Reality.**

**“But, it would be better if we talk about it tomorrow. Right now you are most in need of rest.”**

**Paul lay down by the fire. The Stranger covered him with the woolen cape as if it were a blanket.**

**Paul fell asleep almost instantly...**

**\* \* \***

**In the morning, upon opening his eyes, Paul tried to understand whether everything seen by him was a dream, or the fruits of thirst, hunger, exhaustion, and imagination — or, if it truly was a reality...**

**The amazing Stranger was in the same place.**

**He welcomed Paul in silence — with a slight smile and nod.**

**Paul greeted Him in English, and thought for a moment about what language they were speaking yesterday... From childhood, Paul was fluent both in English, and French, but recently English was closer to him, he also wrote his books in English.**

**“You ought to wash,” — said the Stranger in English.**

**“Or would you prefer to speak French?” — He said in French, speaking just as perfectly as He had done in English.**

**“I prefer English.**

**“But to wash... here — where?”**

**The Stranger held out His hand in the direction of a large stone. The stone with some tension and a sound like cotton being torn apart, suddenly split. From the resulting cracks, water started to flow.**

**Paul again was drinking, and drinking... Then he bathed with the cool clear water that flowed now in a small shallow basin near the stone. A small lake gradually formed...**

**“Your clothes can also be washed.”**

**Paul did as was said. He then laid his washed clothes out to dry on the stone from which the new-born source flowed.**

**\* \* \***

**Paul returned to the fire in the woolen cape of the Stranger.**

**Meanwhile, the Stranger laid out on a makeshift table made of pure linen — pieces of bread, nuts and fruits. As well as — bowls with water and juice.**

**Paul came up to this table. He turned to where he washed, checking: whether the marvelous source disappeared? But the stone with a stream of clear water, flowing out from it, was at the same place. Next to it, was a small lake. On the opposite bank — appearing as if from nowhere, antelopes were**

quenching their thirst. They were startled by the surprised look of Paul.

“Do not scare them, they want to drink. Sit down at the table, breakfast is ready. And then we can continue our conversation.”

Paul came and sat beside Him.

“How do You do all of this?”

“And how did Jesus feed thousands with a few loaves?”

“But that is a Christian legend...”

“But I thought that you are a Christian. You are even wearing a cross... Or is it — *just*: an ornament or amulet, like the Pagans wear, ‘to be on the safe side’, or to protect ‘from an evil eye’?”

“You’re almost right. Even though I was baptized as a child, I was not a very good Christian, I am still questioning many things and read the manuscripts of different nations about their ‘gods’ and beliefs...”

“Searching for Truth — is not a sin! Reading and learning — it makes sense! Even Jesus had spent years of His life for the cognition of the different faiths of different nations — before He began to preach the Truth.

“And your baptism — does not matter... Another Baptism should be taken by the soul!

“However, now — the meal.”

And He looked with an inviting gesture to the treats, arranged on the clean cloth...

Paul was absorbed in satisfying his hunger and thirst, and almost did not think about how wonderfully everything had changed since last night...

\* \* \*

When the breakfast came to an end, the Stranger still remained silent. He did not eat much and ate slowly. Then Paul as if heard within himself the question:

“Did you want only to satisfy hunger and thirst — or did you need the continuation of your life for something more? Why would you like to live in this body: what do you want to know, understand, or make?”

The Stranger said slowly aloud the words that Paul had just heard inside himself-soul.

Paul thought. All his life, like a film strip on fast-forward, appeared in front of him to remind him of his childhood with radiant perception of beauty and goodness, studying at the institute, his growing skepticism, a career as a journalist and writer... His latest book — “Itineraries of a Lone Traveler” was a success... Then there was the fight for the circulation and quality, and a quarrel with the publisher... What did he want, when he wrote the book? Money, fame, the benefit of revealing something unknown for people? And are all his arguments about the secret teachings of ancient Egypt, Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, and the religious myths and legends of various nations even actually needed by anyone? All this seemed so important a few weeks ago. But now...

“Your next book could be more interesting. You now have the opportunity to ask about what is important to you and get answers. You may ask.”

“Who are You?”

**“It is not the best question to start with. My name is Philip. The rest — you will learn gradually.”**

**The next question froze on the lips of Paul, and he did not dare to say it aloud: “Are You — the Apostle, Follower, and Disciple of Jesus? But how is this possible: that was two thousand years ago — and now... You are still alive?”**

**But Philip still answered this non-pronounced question — again as if by a voice that Paul heard inside. And then He repeated again what was said, slowly and quietly uttering the words:**

**“Why do you think that this is impossible? You yesterday were looking for a meeting with the One Who will reveal to you the Path to the true knowledge. I use the word *Path*, because it’s impossible to reveal the Truth to another soul directly, just as it is impossible to quench your thirst by giving a drink to another man instead of to yourself. Each person should discover the Eternal Truth for himself or herself. There can be only a little help in finding this Path by others.**

**“You aspired to God in the same way as how you, here in the desert, rushed for mirages. One mirage in life was replaced by another, but not one of them has brought you closer to the Truth. And a number of distractions pursued you from all sides so that you could get lost or even forget about the Goal.**

**“If lots of people follow each other in the same direction, it seems to them that they know where to go. But this is not always right...”**

**... Paul understood that the pronunciation of thoughts aloud was not necessary to communicate with Philip. But Philip was using it only as a confirmation: so that, in the mind of Paul, there would not**

be any doubts in the understanding of what he perceived as the answers.

Paul used to be very fond of the question on the possibility of telepathy, but he did not think it could be done so easily with himself.

Philip continued:

“Why do you think that the appearance in a resurrected body on the Earth after a large amount of time is not possible? You yourself believe in the reality of the resurrection of Jesus in a deified material body, right? You even wrote an entire article on the ‘Shroud of Turin’, which captures the negative of the bodily form of Jesus at the moment of dematerialization of His body. And you yourself argued that the One Who was able to dematerialize His body — could easily recreate the body again...

“Why do you think that He did not want to teach others to do the same?”

“And have You mastered this?”

“Yes, but not immediately.

“And now tell Me: who are you?”

... This common question caught Paul unawares: it seemed to him that Philip knew everything about him, and that He had even read his articles.

“My name is Paul,” — Paul decided to compete with Philip in brevity.

“Why are you, a person living on the planet Earth, here? Have you thought about this?”

“Yes, I have thought about this... I thought that we all are here to learn...”

“Good answer!”

“Yes, I was looking for the Truth! I expounded in my books all that I saw, learned, and considered to be significant. I also included into them my thoughts

about what I saw, about the people I encountered, and about the legends that I heard...”

“What will happen with all your knowledge, when the body dies?”

“It will remain in my books... Perhaps this can help others in their search...”

“What do you think: have you lived before being born in this body? And will you live without a body after its death? And will you be born in a new body to continue to improve?”

“It’s not fair! You promised to answer my questions, but instead You shower me with questions whose answers I was looking for and did not find!”

“I help you to learn to find the right answers! I have only just begun!

“You read many times the right and wrong answers to these questions, but did not feel, did not recognize the Truth! You many times passed the Truth!

“All *external* knowledge is only the husk! It is possible to believe or not to believe... But this “belief” does not change anything in man!”

“Christianity rejects the knowledge on reincarnation. Hinduism...”

“And you yourself? I’m aware that you’re familiar with the modern doctrines of different directions of faith, including of those people who call themselves ‘Christians’. You read, too, the books of many other different nations... But I ask you: what do you think about this — you yourself?”

“I thought that it would be right for there to be a new incarnation — for one who made mistakes, ... for one who started to learn, but did not understand everything... I think it is more reasonable, than the eter-

nal torment of hell or eternal bliss of paradise. The death of a baby, for example, does not seem logical to me: if its life was cut short, almost before it began... There must still be an opportunity for it!..."

"Perfect! Brilliant! You're already making progress!"

"But people do not remember their past lives. And those minority, who argue that they recall, — cannot prove that this is not a fantasy. And the Bible and other books do not explain..."

"You just thought about the meaning of your life and the lives of other creatures, of the interconnectedness of souls, who come to the Earth, and about how God, if He exists, should be just, am I right?"

"Yes, You have well formulated my thoughts. I did not understand why various people so differently worship a Higher Power, God, claiming that only their faith is true, and that only "their God" indeed exists. But there are those who recognize a multitude of Gods or Saints..."

"You had wanted to receive an easy answer from the books. But you were looking from the *outside*. But the Truth must be found *within*.

"First, and you have already done this, — one needs to set a goal and look for it. There are so many of those who are not interested in the meaning of life, they just go with the flow, in accordance with their instincts and reflexes... But there are other people who are willing to spend a lifetime searching for the Truth!

"The second thing to do is to obtain direct cognition of the Truth through personal experience. The entrance to these states is *inside* of you.

“Jesus pointed the Path for approaching the Creator: ‘God is Love!’. That is, He can be cognized only by becoming soul-love by developing oneself as a spiritual heart.

“Krishna also taught about it: “Only love can contemplate Me in My Innermost Essence and merge with Me!”.

“To cognize oneself as the Atman and the Higher ‘I’, to cognize the Primordial Consciousness and to flow into Him — one has to become a developed and loving consciousness! Christians-Hesychasts believed that this stage — that is, the transformation of oneself-soul into the spiritual heart — is the most important.

“The knowledge that you get from the level of words, rather than on the basis of the experience of the soul, — remains *external*, superficial knowledge. It is only information for thinking, it is useful, but... But the Truth can be really cognized only through your own experience! This is the knowledge gained as states of consciousness in Union with the Creator.

“Initially, these moments are brief. But it is possible to reach the level of knowledge, about which Jesus said: ‘I and the Father are One’.”

“Have all the Apostles managed this?”

“Many. Some of Them — quickly, others took more incarnations.

“But not only Jesus and His disciples have cognized this.

“Those, Who have mastered the Mergence with the Primordial Universal Consciousness, the Great *United We*, Which is called by people for the sake of simplicity as *God*, — Those can draw knowledge di-

rectly from the Source of the Universal Love, Wisdom and Power, Which are now at Their disposal. All the knowledge, stored in the Absolute, is provided to Them upon request. And this is limited only by the ability and experience of that Consciousness, which perceives this Knowledge.”

“Do You mean to say that Those, Who have attained the Mergence, may also have restrictions?”

“I mean that the possibility to improve is boundless! This applies, too, to the Evolution and Life of the *One*, consisting of the Multitude.

“But for a person to start this Path, he or she needs to work hard.

“It is not possible to quickly replace one’s savage instincts by the Divine Awareness.

“Souls gradually climb the ladder of development: from the lower forms of consciousness — to the top. This evolution begins in the tiny droplets of consciousness, which grow, being fastened to the crystal lattices of minerals. Then these germs of souls grow, being connected with the plant’s and then animals’ bodies.

“Only man, who matured in a long series of incarnations, is able to improve himself or herself-soul — consciously. This is not just your first incarnation of looking for the Truth, and you now have real chances to succeed.

“You are a vegetarian. You chose this according to the conviction that man should not commit the murder of any innocent animal. This is — a serious first step on the Path of goodness.

“You are doing Hatha Yoga. However, you were doing this just as an exercise for your health. But even in this version, it has brought good results. The

energies of your body are clean and are in a very good state, when compared to the average majority.

“You are prepared to try and take the higher stages of the spiritual Path. Do you want it?”

“Can there be any doubts? Yes!”

“To begin, you need to explore the intangible for usual vision, but very real structures of the organism: the chakras and meridians. They allow one to trace the relationships between the soul-jiva — and its material body.

\* \* \*

Philip started training Paul.

He explained how it is possible to move the concentration of oneself-soul through the chakras and meridians. Paul really felt, how the state of the soul changes from simple immersion, for example, in the anahata chakra: peace and love becomes natural, and dominant thoughts disappear.

Paul devoted a few days to the clearing of these energy structures.

The second task was to learn to live as a spiritual heart. Here Paul had to work much longer: in fact, the habit of constantly thinking about something — accustoms one to life in the head chakras.

But Philip explained:

“It is necessary to master the continuous existence as a spiritual heart. It is the overriding basis for a correctly developing soul!

“The spiritual heart must become much more than the anahata chakra, located in the chest of the body, where the spiritual heart began to grow from.

**“The ability to be a soul-love, which has become much larger than the tangible body size, fundamentally changes the status of the person. This is the first stage of the spiritual Path. Even just doing it — makes the achievement of paradise the natural state!**

**“And this step also opens the door to the secret world of the Divine Reality!**

**“The entire esoteric Path is needed for only mature and wise souls.**

**“But the ability to live as a soul-love — is suitable for every soul, it does not hurt anyone. It will bring all souls to the light and joy of life, even when the life of the body ends. And after the death of the body — it allows the soul to live in the blissful harmony of paradise!”**

**\* \* \***

**Paul now spent a lot of time in meditations, filling by the soul-love the space above the Earth’s surface.**

**The endless desert, which had once seemed to him to be such a ruthless and brutal place, now... gave him the opportunity to expand the spiritual heart more and more, covering the entire space.**

**His previous attempts to “meditate” — sitting cross-legged and concentrating in the head or eyebrows, now seemed like the funny game of a child who tries to show something, about which it does not know anything...**

**And Philip was gradually revealing to Paul the new horizons:**

**“Now you already have the understanding that you are a soul, not a body, endowed with a mind and with organs for communication with the outside material world. Now you have the opportunity to cognize also that God is also the Reality. I will help you to gain your first experience of direct perception of God.**

**“But for this it is necessary to feel the reality of life as a soul, without the limitations of perception, that overlap the material body.**

**“A soul, when incarnate, is connected with a body. This bond forms during embryonic development. Having been born in the material world, a person learns — through the body — to see, hear, feel, and think. A child begins to interact with the world of matter with the help of this tool — the material body.**

**“But the soul can do all the same things without having a body. It can see, hear, feel, and think in other planes of existence in the Absolute.**

**“There are enormous potentials to control matter from the Divine plan of life! But, for you, this is — the long perspective. Walking on water and materializing bread or water — this is only possible for the soul which has realized its Unity with the Primordial Consciousness, God! To do this, the soul, free from the limitations of matter, must learn to live and act in the subtlest layers of the Absolute.**

**“Not all the Divine Souls have reached the immortality of Their material bodies. Not many have mastered the full deification of Their bodies, like Jesus. And the body does not have to leave the material world in order to achieve the Mergence with the Creator.**

**“So, the main conclusion is this: an incarnate man-soul can communicate with God!**

**“Now, about — how.**

**“Let us return to our practical work. I promised you the experience of such interaction with God.**

**“To do this, the soul must be developed as a spiritual heart, that is, as love. If not — everything is confined by fantasy, and mental images created by the mind. This is the ‘stumbling block’, which has stopped very many beginners in their spiritual search.**

**“So, the most important step on the Path — is the development of the spiritual heart.**

**“Feel yourself in the anahata chakra completely, like in a room. Now open the front window — and clean the ‘room’ of all trash and shadows.**

**“Next, let your love, as a gentle light, shine and illuminate the space ahead! Just like how a spotlight or the headlights of the car at night illuminate the space in front of you — like this, the love of the soul can illuminate and caress the space and all the living in it! At first, illuminate just the space which is visible by the body’s eyes, and then farther and farther ahead...”**

**... Paul loved driving at night in a car on an empty road... And now he was very apt to feel the light that illuminates the space in front of him! It was as if the heart’s light was now illuminating his way through life!**

**Philip continued:**

**“Now, in the bodily primary abode of the spiritual heart — the anahata chakra — it is possible to turn back the face of the soul. You can open another window — into the space of the Divine Light.**

**“Try to look back from the anahata chakra — just like staring ahead... Do you see the Light?”**

**“Yes.”**

**“Come into that Light! Immerse yourself in It, as if in a vast Ocean! Dissolve in It, going as far as possible...”**

**“Now try to look *from* the Light to that place where in the body you had lived before...”**

**“And again — let it be only the Light!”**

**“You were willing to take from God the experience of death of the body. Now — here is a part of this experience: the life in the Divine Light without feeling the body. If the body dies — then you... you remain! And you continue to live in the Light, being It, is it not?”**

**“Being in this Light, you can feel It between the fingers of the hands of the soul.**

**“Or you can try to hug It — the Infinite — with your arms. This leads to a state of blissful joy, and delight!**

**“This Light consists of the mutually merged Consciousnesses of All Who Attained.**

**“You can perceive Their Desires and Intentions.**

**“Feel your arms of the consciousness! They — are huge and can be even bigger and bigger... They can touch everything by the fingertips or place any creature on the palms.**

**“In the Christian tradition, this Light is called the Holy Spirit, in Hinduism — Brahman.**

**“Merged with the Flow of this Light, flow by It through your material body and around it, then — from above — downwards, from below — upwards, from behind — forwards, from ahead — backwards.**

**This is the flowing River of Divine Love! Learn to always feel yourself in Unity with this Divine Love!”**

**... Paul miraculously perceived himself in merger with the Divine Light, and at the same time... his body was on the sand.**

**He was now a Part of this Light.**

**He now understood what he had read in the New Testament: one needs to go by the soul towards God-Spirit!**

**He was infinitely free and infinitely happy!**

**But this state did not last long: the fatigue of meditations forced him back into the body.**

**“Well, now you really have got the baptism in the Holy Spirit!” — Philip congratulated him. — “You can now be considered a real Christian!**

**“The process of gradual transformation of the soul into the Divine Light is called *Enlightenment*. And one, strengthened in the state of Divine Light, is called *Enlightened*.”**

**\* \* \***

**Between these meditations, Paul again felt like a prisoner of the body. And this saddened him.**

**Philip once replied to these thoughts, which were not expressed aloud:**

**“Not all at once! Even you — who already had significant spiritual experiences in your past lives — need time to get used to the new states of consciousness.**

**“You will need a long time to work on the extension-growth of yourself as a spiritual heart, and on the further purification of the structures inside the body and filling them with the Divine Light.**

**“Only when the complete substitution of the energies within your body by the Divine Light has been reached — will it be easy to live in this Light all the time. Then the Light will be your Home — the *Home of the Soul*. This Home does not have to be exited, despite the fact that the body is in the material world.”**

**... Philip showed to Paul every day more and more new methods of work on the expansion of the consciousness as love and replacing the energies in the body.**

**\* \* \***

**After a few days, one night, Philip asked Paul:**

**“Would you like to talk with Jesus?”**

**“With Jesus? Me?”**

**“What are you so puzzled about? You cannot decide? But you believe that Jesus can hear what people say to Him, right? And those, who recite prayers in the temples, do they also probably believe that they are heard by Him?”**

**“Many people are crying out to Jesus. It is because they know more about Him: more than they do about the many Others, Who have also reached the state of Christ.**

**“All of Them and Each of Them may now be called the Holy Spirit.**

**“One can selectively appeal to Someone among Them.**

**“The Creator consists of this Sum of Perfect Ones!**

**“Their entry into the Creator is similar to the drops of water which flow into the ocean and be-**

come merged there with those drops that have flowed into the ocean before.

“These, the Perfect Ones compose the Great *United We!* Someone calls Him *God-the-Father*, someone — *Tao*, someone — *Allah*, but the difference is only in the words.

“The Divine Consciousness, called the Primordial, — this is the Multitude of the Divine Consciousnesses mutually merged into *One!*”

“But Each of Them can act in the Creation, by coming out from Him. Just as a wave can rise above the ocean, while remaining an integral part of it, — so, too, can Those, Who have attained, manifest Themselves, remaining in the Unity with the Ocean of the Creator.

“So, would you like to talk with Jesus?”

“Yes!” — Paul said emphatically, understanding that, if he refuses, then he will never forgive himself for this.

Something from his journalistic past flashed as a strange thought: “I never thought that it would be possible to interview Jesus Himself!”

... A Light, similar to the rising sun, was approaching from the intangible *depths*. The Light came closer. In It, the image of Jesus began to appear.

And now — Jesus, the living Jesus!

He and Philip embraced...

Then Jesus went up at arm’s length to Paul. Paul tried to touch His clothes. Jesus was composed of Light, the body was not material.

Jesus said:

“It is not an illusion. This is the reality. Are you still not satisfied with the words of Philip, Who ex-

plained to you that the difference between matter and Light — is just a difference of the energy levels of subtlety?

“Why do you need My material body? In order to write a sensational report about a meeting with Jesus? So that everyone, who reads your book, will begin to seek a meeting with My materialized body?

“Well, look: My body may be material.”

Jesus condensed His body of Light and sat down next to Paul and Philip by the campfire. He continued:

“Miracles, in fact, do not change anything fundamental in human souls! However, I will be glad, if you write that for each person either praying in the temple, or bustling in a big store, or going by a train, or sailing on a ship — can stand, sit, and speak — and not notice that He, with Whom he or she is nearby, is Jesus. This has happened to Me many times among embodied people, and they did not recognize Me, did not hear Me...

“It would be nice, if everyone will know that by pushing someone with one’s elbows amid the bustle, he or she can alienate Jesus, without even noticing...

“Within all this time, people, too, have not learned to see in each person a brother or sister...

“If I come, as before, and begin to perform miracles — I certainly would be called a ‘false prophet’!

“But for those, who know Me, — they do not need My body, consisting of flesh.”

“But why did You come in the body then — 2000 years ago?”

“I was sent into this hell of suffering and misery in earthly life — to point out the medicine and anti-

dotes against them. I did it, too, by presenting people the Teachings about the *Path of Love!*

“Among the darkness of ignorance, I kindled the Lamp of Truth. I have shown the ability to be only Love — even amidst the hatred and other abominations of human souls!

“I showed people the *Path of Love!* I spoke about the possibility of exit from hell — to the Light of the Creator, to cognition of Him and Mergence with Him!

“The Path of service to God — this is to go where things are bad, where you will be hated and killed... And one should be only the Pure Love, continuing to bring to people the Truth of God! Each of Those Who come from the Heavenly Father onto the Earth — demonstrates this by His or Her life!

“In words — everything is easier. But a Christ must live in this way — every day and hour, every minute of life on the Earth, not allowing the flame of the heart to be extinguished and without breaking the Consubstantiality with the Father!

“Are you ready to start this? After all, just for this our meeting was planned!”

“I do not know, if I can do it...?”

“You do not know this, until you try!”

“Tell me, did Your earthly life’s Feat help anyone? Was it necessary for people? For they have forgotten everything again!”

“My Teachings have helped many. People need to be aware of the Path to achieve the Oneness with the Creator!

“Those, who understood Me back then, — they went this Path. There were many of them. And there

were many others, who just approached and then kept going their own way.

“Even when darkness thickens around and there is no hope that the Light will shine — in such times, it is only *love* that saves us from darkness and allows us to find a stable footing only in God!”

“And what about the so-called ‘Christianity’? The Crusades? The Inquisition? They do not fit Your description!”

“Any medicine, when used incorrectly, can become a poison...

“Even the most useful word or action, if it is not used properly or for evil intentions, — can bring about evil...

“I’m not talking about the distortions that were added intentionally by those who converted the Teachings of God — into a way to control people for the sake of themselves!

“Under the wrong application, force — can become violence, caution — can become cowardice, excessive concern — can become the suppression of development.

“Also, the belief in the existence of God can keep a person from doing evil. But the criminal leaders of religious movements make people, who have fallen under their influence, into perpetrators.

“Only the mastered love allows one to gain the Wisdom needed to distinguish between good and evil — at the level at which God distinguishes them.

“And everything is so simple!

“Everyone can now become My disciple — directly, without intermediaries!

“I would like you to tell people about it.

**“And, to be My disciple, — one does not need to be close to My body!”**

... Jesus dissolved His body’s image in the Light... and continued to speak. Paul easily understood Jesus, Who was now only Light-Love, Light-Tenderness. This understanding was more than just hearing the words.

In the Light, the voice of Jesus continued to sound:

**“I am Omnipresent! I can be right now next to each man!**

**“Everyone can aspire to fulfill the principles of life, offered by God. This will be the true Christianity! Not only I, but many of Those Who have Attained will help such a person!**

**“Notice: now your mind is completely relaxed, and the silence has filled the spiritual heart!**

**“God can be perceived only by the developed spiritual heart. Only the soul that has become love can touch the Divine Consciousness, Which is Love. To this, I have called people ever since — by the words “God is Love!”.**

**“But this cannot be passed to anyone by means of only words!**

**“But you — give me a hug! My Light and Love — are waiting for you! I was long waiting for this moment! I love you!”**

... There was only Jesus — the Blissful Light of God, Who immersed in Himself and dissolved in Himself...

The soft voice of Jesus continued:

**“Try to feel that there are Many of Us here.**

**“Here is, in particular, Philip. You will now always be able to recognize Him. And it is not neces-**

sary for Him to be physically close to you — for you to continue to be trained.”

... The space of the Divine Light — the space of another reality of existence, stunning first by Its Tenderness, Beauty, Greatness, and Simplicity — it now was clearly perceived by Paul, because He was now in It and being It.

The ever-evolving Consciousness, the Divine *United We* — consists of the Sum of Perfect Consciousnesses. It does not know decay and death! But it is full of mature Wisdom and Omnipotence, fused with a gentle and caring Endearment of the Perfect Love!

\* \* \*

The last day of the life of Paul and Philip in the middle of the desert had come.

Philip said:

“The time of our joint stay here is over. The stage of your training with the help of My material body is coming to an end. From now on, you can receive help and guidance for your growth without My presence on the plane of matter.

“Did you read about the meditation *Cross*? The fullness of this meditation, including the “Right” and “Left”, you are to cognize later.

“Now, before we leave, we have to do one more thing. In memory of our meeting, we can give to the desert a new oasis. And to be precise — to return the landscape that was here thousands of years ago.

“The water is already here. All that remains, is to sow the seeds.

**“Take these seeds of dates and of some other plants that are able to take root here.”**

**... Paul and Philip walked around the newborn lake, throwing the seeds along the coast.**

**“Do you believe that here something will be able to grow? There is only sand here!” — Paul said.**

**“Where there is a source, life can always develop! Animals will come to the water, soon the first plants will germinate — and then the soil will be filled with power and allow other plants to germinate.**

**“You now also carry a source of the Truth.**

**“You will also need to work hard to ‘cultivate a field’ of yourself-consciousness, that is, to cognize the fullness of Mergence with God and to plant a ‘field’ with many seeds. You can grow yourself more and more, and help others to do the same. You can do it wherever you live and work. And God will harvest!**

**“That’s all! For our bodies — it’s time to leave.**

**“You have already started to learn to listen by the consciousness and understand God’s plans!**

**“The ability to communicate by the consciousness with the Divine Consciousnesses will help you never be without Divine Help and Advices. Not only Jesus and I have come into your life. All the Messengers of Light are always ready to help those who are turning to Them. Just call Me!”**

**... They embraced.**

**Then Philip went without looking back. A light breeze was covering His tracks with sand.**

**Paul filled the jar with water, folded the stock of provisions, left to him by Philip, and went to people...**

**Three days later, he came up to where ordinary human life was in full swing.**

And he did not have any tangible evidence of all that had happened to him, in addition to that surprising fact that he was still alive.

## Mary Magdalene

### Parable of the Stone

*“If every tongue were stilled,  
the noise would still continue,  
the rocks and stones themselves  
would start to sing: ‘Hosanna! Hosanna!’”.*

(from the Opera "Jesus Christ — Superstar")

... It happened a long time ago.  
There was an ordinary stone, a small one.  
It lay on the side of the road and slept peacefully — motionless, unaware...

\* \* \*

One day on that road, a crowd of people wanted to throw stones at a woman for her sins. And the outrage of that crowd was rising to a boiling point, and anger was being poured out and multiplied around.

... But suddenly a different thing happened in the space.

Jesus of Nazareth stood up for this sinner. He spoke to these people about kindness and understanding...

But their indignation was not immediately assuaged by His wise words. And stones started to be picked up from the ground to brand with shame and pain both the woman who had sinned and the One Who had interceded for her.

And a stone was thrown in hatred at that woman by a human hand, so that the condemnation and punishment of sin could be made to manifest to all...

But He Who spoke the words of Love — He shielded the unfortunate one with Himself!

\* \* \*

What can an ordinary stone do when hate and anger have been put into it?

What can a stone do? It cannot stop its movement in space with its still undeveloped will... It is only a stone — it cannot soften its blow at all against living flesh...

But the miracle of touching the Messiah happened!

In the ordinary stone, the energies were then transformed. And the anger that was put into it disappeared! And love began to shine in the consciousness of its crystals, and became a part of this stone for centuries...

\* \* \*

And the people who were there also stopped...  
And hatred died out in them at the words: "Let the  
one who is without sin condemn her, if he can..."  
And hands fell, and stones were dropped. And the  
anger in their souls faded away.

And each one thought about himself in the face  
of God...

And the crowd dispersed...

\* \* \*

And the stone that had once touched the body  
of Jesus still lies by that road and remembers and  
keeps love.

This is how malice is transformed by Uncondi-  
tional Love!

And the legend has it that even the stones that  
Jesus touched on His earthly Path are still singing in  
a *special silence* to this day, singing "*Hosanna*"!

\* \* \*

And people... People are not stones...

How many centuries now have the words that  
the Messiah spoke been sounding for people to  
hear...

And may His words of Truth, which transform  
those who listen with their hearts, touch souls again,  
and may LOVE come alive and blossom!