

## THERE ARE NO INNOCENT VICTIMS

YOU MAY STILL COMPLAIN ABOUT FEAR, BUT YOU NEVERTHELESS PERSIST IN MAKING YOURSELF FEARFUL. I have already indicated that you cannot ask me to release you from fear. I know it does not exist. If I intervened between your thoughts and their results, I would be tampering with a basic law of cause and effect; the most fundamental law there is. I would hardly help you if I depreciated the power of your own thinking. (T-#27/31)

Yes. If someone relieves you of the discovery that your thoughts absolutely govern the way you experience Reality, you would become disempowered, and you would not find the occasion for recognizing the authority you exercise over your particular biased experience of Reality, the Kingdom of Heaven. And if you do not find the absolute relationship between your thoughts and your experience, you, first of all, will feel that you exist without any authority. And that therefore, you are like a leaf in the wind to be blown about hither, thither, and yond by whatever currents there are. And you will become depressed. And you will become even more dysfunctional. And you will become even more afraid.

You have to find out the absolute relationship between your thoughts and your experience; the authority you do have. Why? First of all, so that you can feel your power, even though it's an ego power. You must discover your power so that you can demonstrate to yourself by a more constructive use of your mind that you can have a more constructive and harmonious experience. In this way, you learn that you are not subject to chance, or fate, or the way the wind is blowing, but you are subject only to the thoughts, the ideas, the definitions, the meanings that you are choosing to give everything.

Now, when you learn this, and how absolute the relationship is, and that therefore you are never the innocent victim of any circumstance, or anyone you know, you have experience that allows you to look at God and say, "If God is Infinite Intelligence, and if God, if the Mind of God is the Cause of Existence, the Cause of Being for everything that be's, and

if--no, not 'and if'--then I have now the ability to acknowledge the possibility that the Thoughts of God absolutely govern Creation. And because God is indivisible and undivided, there can be no conflict in His Thought. And therefore, there cannot be any conflict in Creation. Therefore, since I have been learning that the call is to turn around to the Altar and yield to God, I can do it without being afraid that God is a whimsical God and that I will become subject to whatever whimsical thing He might choose for me that might place me at a disadvantage. I don't have to be afraid that He's a wrathful God. I know from my experience of the absolute connection between my thoughts and my experience, that God coming from an indivisible and undivided place is an absolutely secure Presence for me to yield into completely."

Conversely, if you do not see the absolute connection, the absolute authoritative connection between your thoughts and your experience, and you feel vulnerable to life itself, you will not be able to bring yourself to yield willingly and completely into God. Because your God will be to you a reflection of the way you're seeing life, and you will see Him as whimsical, even divided within Himself, and sometimes angry at you, and sometimes loving of you. And you will not be able to find the courage to yield to God.

Now, I've also pointed out before that even though you have chosen to look at things independently, and you have created your own definitions for everything, you cannot stop being the Son or Daughter of God that you are. You can't stop being What God Is Being right there where you are. You do have intelligence, and you are able to have thoughts. And your thoughts ultimately do have power and authority. But you won't find out the Truth of that power and authority until you've abandoned it by yielding to God and making the connection once again with your Source so that your thoughts might be derived from the Father, and therein have authority, but not an independent authority.

Your capacity to think, your capacity to experience ideas, is a divine capacity. But when you are experiencing that divine capacity from a vantage point you have chosen in which you have decided to relinquish

your connection to the Father's Point of View so that you might have one of your own, that authority becomes distorted. And because you are, as I said before, automatically in a state of fear when you turn your back to your Source, all of your ideas and all of your thoughts will be, will arise out of fear and will always be an act of defense.

Now, this is not an indictment on you. It's something that every single one of the Sons and Daughters of God is capable of. Because you are capable of it, you are not doing something wrong that is punishable. It is like you, humanly speaking, having the capacity to put your hand under the faucet of hot water. It's something that's not practical to do, but the water that's coming out of your faucet normally won't harm you. It will just hurt; burn like hell. The point is... [crackling, popping noise and audience laughter]

So, the fact that you're in a state of fear because you chose to experiment with looking at the Kingdom of Heaven independent of the Father's Point of View, is not something wrong. It's not something you will be punished for. And you're not actually being punished for it right now. But you have chosen for a way of being in the Kingdom of Heaven that is unnatural, and so it will be uncomfortable. So don't feel indicted. Don't feel bad. Just understand what you're doing, so that you can make an intelligent choice to stop doing it.

~excerpt from ACIM Study Group with Raj 2/6/03  
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