

The Principles of New Thought: Tracing Spiritual Truth from The Source to The Soul

by April Moncrieff

What is New Thought?

The religion of the future will be a cosmic religion. It will have to transcend a personal God and avoid dogma and theology. Encompassing both the natural and the spiritual, it will have to be based on a religious sense arising from the experience of all things, natural and spiritual, considered as a meaningful unity. – ALBERT EINSTEIN

I do dimly perceive that whilst everything around me is ever-changing, changing, ever-dying, there is, underlying all that change, a living power that is changeless, that holds all together, that creates, dissolves, and recreates. That informing power or spirit is God...I see it as purely benevolent, for I can see that in the midst of death, life persists; in the midst of untruth, truth persists. Hence I gather that God is life, truth and light. He is love. He is the supreme good. But He is no God who merely satisfies the intellect, if he ever does. God to be God, must rule the heart and transform it. – MAHATMA GANDHI, from a 1932 recording

Within man is the soul of the whole; the wise silence; the universal beauty, to which every part and particle is equally related; the eternal ONE. And this deep power in which we exist and whose beatitude is all accessible to us, is not only self-sufficing sufficing and perfect in every hour, but the act of seeing and the thing seen, the seer and the spectacle, the subject and the object, are one. We see the world piece by piece, as the sun, the moon, the animal, the tree; but the whole of which these are the shining parts, is the soul.

Thus revering the soul, and learning, as the ancients said, that "its beauty is immense," man will come to see that the world is the perennial miracle which the soul worketh, and be less astonished at particular wonders; he will learn that there is no profane history; that all history is sacred; that the universe is represented in an atom, in a moment of time. He will weave no longer a spotted life of shreds and patches, but he will live with a divine unity. He will cease from what is false and frivolous in his own life and be content with all places and any service he can render. He will calmly front the morrow in the negligency of

that trust which carries God with it and so hath already the whole future in the bottom of the heart. – RALPH WALDO EMERSON, essay On The Oversoul

Behold, I make all things new – JESUS

The New Thought is the Christ thought made new by being applied and proved in every day affairs. – from the INTA Bulletin, December 15, 1916

Hitherto we have taken forms and conditions as the starting point of our thought and inferred that they are the causes of mental states; now we have learnt that the true order of the creative process is exactly the reverse, and that thought and feeling are the causes, and forms and conditions the effects. When we have learnt this lesson we have grasped the foundation principle on which individual specialization of the generic law of the creative process becomes a practical possibility.

New Thought, then, is not the name of a particular sect, but is the essential factor by which our own future development is to be carried on; and its essence consists in seeing the relation of things in a New Order. Hitherto we have inverted the true order of cause and effect; now by carefully considering the true nature of the Principle of Causation in itself *causa causans* as distinguished from *causa causata* we return to the true order and adopt a new method of thinking in accordance with it.

In themselves, this order and this method of thinking are not new. They are older than the foundation of the world, for they are those of the Creative Spirit itself; and all through the ages this teaching has been handed down through various forms, the true meaning of which has been perceived only by a few in each generation. But as the light breaks in upon any individual it is a new light to him, and so to each one in succession it becomes the New Thought. And when anyone reaches it he finds himself in a New Order. – Thomas Troward, The Dore Lectures on Mental Science

Introduction

Churchianity, by substituting creed for Christ and dogma instead of the divine facts of being, has stripped Love of her royal robes and has left her standing an unheeded beggar in the universe of God. -Rev. W. Jolm Murray

All of the world's great religions have sacred writings that are considered to be the definitive and infallible guide to their spiritual beliefs and practices. For mainstream Christians, in particular, the collected scriptures that comprise the Holy Bible are deemed the direct and final word of God and the supreme authority in matters pertaining to human conduct. Each word inscribed within its pages is regarded as a literal account of the historical events of several thousand years ago and the only source of truth about God and creation. Dissenters challenge the veracity and authority of the Bible at their peril.

In the enlightened philosophy of New Thought, however, where the metaphysical or non-literal interpretation of the Christian Bible is sought, we discern a deeper significance to all of the characters, places and events described within its pages. In prayerful contemplation as we read, the spiritual Truth within the words is revealed, Truth that is at once illumined and inspired, and soundly practical in its relevance to daily life. Our recognition of the Truth contained within the teachings of the Bible, when applied faithfully and systematically to the problems at hand, sets us free from confusion, doubt and fear and we begin to live, as Thoreau claimed in Walden, "with the license of a higher order of beings."