

# On the Meaning of Redemption: Preliminary Words

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The following are preliminary words to the rerun of the Convention of 1969:

So I'm running a tape this morning of what was said at our Convention a year ago on the most important subject of all. It is the first of a series of three tapes which constitute a record of the most important things I have ever said or written.<sup>1</sup> And certain ones who are in a position to know have gone further than that; and it has even been said that it is the most important thing that has ever been done in the particular field concerned, and that is the field of redemption. It involves a certain seriousness that if it had occurred, say in the Middle Ages, would have made me a fit candidate for being burned at the stake and you, yourselves, would be in some danger for having heard it, for from the standpoint of the traditionalist—whether Buddhistic, Vedantistic, or Christian—it would be regarded as very serious heresy. But as I say, there are certain ones who have given it more importance than I even myself felt it had, with the result that instructions were received that three copies should be preserved of at least one of the three records so that they would not be lost. You will have difficulty understanding it, and part of the reason why it's not too dangerous from my point of view is that generally it won't be understood. There is some Sanskrit in it and even some Tibetan, and unless you have been most of your lives students of the subject, you won't find it too easy to understand; and, nonetheless, pick up what you can and you'll find its bearings, I think, quite interesting.

Now, if you'll turn that off and put on the other tape.

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<sup>1</sup> See the audio recordings "On the Meaning of Redemption" and "Sangsara, Nirvana, and Paranirvana," parts 1 and 2.