

## TOWARD PERFECTION

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Whether we are conscious of the fact or not, we are all striving for perfection. Perfection is that state where all is in absolute balance, a condition which we can only approach, the distance between the opposites becoming progressively smaller on into Infinity. To our crude senses a thing may seem to be perfect because we cannot measure the infinitely small distances.

Our efforts toward perfection may manifest in the little things we do or in all our living. The motives may be hidden or we may not be entirely aware of the trend, but it may govern our every action. We may work at a painting until it is as perfect as we can get it, or try to be perfect in our profession or personality, or resolve to correct any mistakes and do better next time, or outdo the other person. We may seek better lives, better homes, clothes, education, and employment. We try for better manners and morals, better relations with others and better understanding and ways of doing things, all through a variety of motives yet all pointing toward perfection. There may even be a negative kind of perfection, where one may strive to perfect himself in evil ways. Sometimes we perfect a small detail to the detriment of a more important thing, like stacking sheets of paper all in so perfect alignment that they are difficult to separate and so slow down work; or we can expand time and energy and money on an unimportant detail and have no time, energy or money left over for what would have been more important. But learning where to perfect, and when, is part of the process of evolution; sometimes, too, it is necessary to work with the smallest details. They also have their place and purpose.

As we perfect our lives we tend to grow in discrimination, for perfection is dependent on it. We are able to start with extremes, for they are easiest to discriminate, and we have little trouble telling black from white, extreme heat from extreme cold, pain from joy. It is as the two extremes begin to move in to a closer proximity to each other that it is necessary to learn a higher discrimination. We may readily discriminate the unimportant from the important, but the important from the more important is more difficult; or matching colors exactly, or distinguishing a tone of 256 and 257 vibrations per second. We may think we can discriminate between right and wrong, or good and evil, but actually to what extent can we? Even many of those things burned on our conscience in childhood may sometimes prove to be wrong teachings, and we end in confusion, often denouncing the source of these teachings as being completely unreliable. Where can we turn, then for the answers?

Consider the goal, not our own personal goal but that of all mankind, perfection of all. This state of being would be one of complete harmony, unity, bliss, love, peace, Omniscience, Omnipotence, All-Knowledge, no one being can be isolated from the All. The closer we come to the goal, perfection, the happier will be our lot and the lot of all others, but in line with all teachings of evolution it seems necessary that we do our own growing. Nothing can catapult us into this happy state but our own efforts. We must grow into it. Can we look for a Messiah who will come and give us Heaven unconditionally, dissolving all pain and sorrow, when such an act

is contrary to natural law? The Law, at least on this planet and in this day seems to be growth, ever reaching toward perfection.

It is only fair to say that absolute perfection on this plane of living is not possible; we can only approach it, for we live in the state of ever-becoming. It is the world of duality. Even Nirvana is but the opposite pole of this state of existence. The True Perfection is something that transcends both of these, and is out of the evolution, beyond it. To attain this exalted State is simply to awaken from our present Earth-dream. This, seemingly, comes by Grace, and yet, were we to know all the facts about those who have attained, of all their struggles toward perfection in this or past lives, we may discover that it was necessary for them to go through the evolution. Until that Great Day, however, the greatest goal in this life would seem to be perfection of our physical, mental, emotional and spiritual selves, all our deeds and thoughts, and of every detail of this our world and as a whole.

Once we have sighted the goal all lesser things will gradually align themselves. In time we may ask ourselves when in doubt: Is this that I am about to do for the greater good? Will this act delay progress anywhere? Will giving temporary pleasures to one help or hinder his ultimate growth? Am I sacrificing the greater for the lesser?

In our day of confusion then, we can look to our goal and align our actions, and as we seek, the answers will come.