

## The Inner Shift

<sup>85</sup> Are thoughts, then, dangerous? To bodies, YES. The thoughts that seem to kill are those which teach the thinker that he CAN be killed. And so he dies, BECAUSE of what he learned. He goes from life to death, the final proof he valued the inconstant more than constancy. Surely he THOUGHT he wanted happiness. Yet he did not desire it BECAUSE it was the truth, and therefore MUST be constant.

<sup>86</sup> The constancy of joy is a condition quite alien to your understanding. Yet, if you could even imagine what it must be, you would desire it, although you understand it not.

<sup>87</sup> The constancy of happiness has no exceptions, no change of any kind. It is unshakable as is the Love of God for His creation. Sure in its vision as its Creator is in what He knows, it looks on everything and sees it is the same. It sees not the ephemeral, for it desires that everything be like itself, and sees it so. Nothing has power to confound its constancy, because its own desire can not be shaken. It comes as surely unto those who see the final question is necessary to the rest, as peace must come to those who choose to heal, and not to judge.

<sup>88</sup> Reason will tell you that you CANNOT ask for happiness inconstantly. For, if what you desire you receive, and happiness is constant, then you need ask for it but ONCE, to have it ALWAYS. And, if you do not have it always, being what it is, you did not ask for it. For no-one fails to ask for his desire of something he believes holds out some promise of the power of giving it. He may be wrong in what he asks, where, and of what. Yet he WILL ask, because desire is a request, an asking for, and made by one whom God Himself will never fail to answer. God has already given him all that he REALLY wants. But what he is uncertain of, God CANNOT give. For he does not desire it while he remains uncertain, and God's giving must be incomplete unless it is received.

<sup>89</sup> You who complete His Will and are His happiness, whose will is powerful as His, - a power that is not lost in your illusions, - think carefully why it should be you have not yet decided how you would answer the final question. Your answer to the others has made it possible to help you be but partially insane. And yet it is the final one that really asks if you are willing to be WHOLLY sane.

<sup>90</sup> What is the holy instant but God's appeal to you to recognize what He has given you? Here is the great appeal to reason; the awareness of what is always there to see; the happiness that could be always yours. Here is the constant peace you could experience forever. Here is what denial has denied, REVEALED to you. For here the final question is ALREADY answered, and what you ASK for, given. Here is the future NOW, for time is powerless because of your desire for what will never change. For you have asked that nothing stand between the holiness of your relationship, and your AWARENESS of its holiness.