

## Chapter 2.

### THE SEPARATION AND THE ATONEMENT

#### I. The Origins of Separation

**T-2.I.1.** To extend is a fundamental aspect of God which **God** gave to His Son. 2 In the creation, God extended Himself to His creations and imbued **His creations** with the same loving Will to create. 3 You have not only been fully created, but have also been created perfect. 4 There is no emptiness in you. 5 Because of your likeness to your Creator you are creative. 6 No child of God can lose this ability **because his ability to create** is inherent in what he is, **but as a child of God** he can use **his ability to create** inappropriately by projecting. 7 The inappropriate use of extension, or projection, occurs when you believe that some emptiness or lack exists in you, and that you can fill **this lack** with your own ideas instead of truth. 8 This process of **inappropriate use of extension, or projection**, involves the following steps:

- 9 First, you believe that what God created can be changed by your own mind.
- 10 Second, you believe that what is perfect can be rendered imperfect or lacking.
- 11 Third, you believe that you can distort the creations of God, including yourself.
- 12 Fourth, you believe that you can create yourself, and that the direction of your own creation is up to you.

**Note # 1:** Because we are extensions of the mind of God, we have inherited the ability to create as God does. When we create like God, we give everything since we are unlimited, abundant and love. Nothing is held back and there is no lack in our creations or us. The Oneness of "All That Is" remains perfect, whole and complete. Due to free will, we also have the ability to pretend anything we want. If we choose to believe untruths, it has no impact on reality but it does affect our ability to create like God. When we choose to believe that we lack something, we extend or "make" based on that same belief of limitation and lack. Making is based on separation, fear and lack. Believing ourselves to not be perfect, whole and complete, we project that same lack upon our creation. Sentences # 9 – 12 are the core beliefs that form the bedrock of the thought system of the ego. The egoic thought system is based of the belief in change, separation and lack.

**T-2.I.2.** These related distortions represent a picture of what actually occurred in the separation, or the "detour into fear." 2 None of **these related distortions** existed before the separation, nor does it actually exist now. 3 Everything God created is like Him. 4 Extension, as undertaken by God, is similar to the inner radiance that the children of the Father inherit from Him. 5 **This inner radiance's** real source is internal. 6 This **extension** is as true of the Son as of the Father. 7 In this sense the creation includes both the creation of the Son by God, and the Son's creations when his mind is healed. 8 This requires God's endowment of the Son with free will, because all loving creation is freely given in one continuous line, in which all aspects are of the same order.

**Note # 2:** The Sonship, which is all that God created, as he created it, has been given free will. Your free will does not give you the ability to change the truth. It only means that you can elect to temporarily deny the truth until some given time. This denial cannot change the truth for truth is changeless. Ultimately, everyone will freely choose to return to the truth of the Oneness of the Mind of God. Since the oneness of truth remains eternal, our will and

the Will of God are the same. We will only be happy when we accept the reality that we, as an extension of the Oneness of everything, can lack nothing.

**T-2.I.3.** The Garden of Eden, or the pre-separation condition, was a state of mind in which nothing was needed. 2 When Adam listened to the "lies of the serpent," all **Adam** heard was untruth. 3 You do not have to continue to believe what is not true unless you choose to do so. p17 4 **All that is not true** can literally disappear in the twinkling of an eye because **this untruth** is merely a misperception. 5 What is seen in dreams seems to be very real. 6 Yet the Bible says that a deep sleep fell upon Adam, and nowhere is there reference to his waking up. 7 The world has not yet experienced any comprehensive reawakening or rebirth. 8 Such a rebirth is impossible as long as you continue to project or miscreate. 9 It still remains within you, however, to extend as God extended His Spirit to you. 10 In reality this **ability to extend as God extended His Spirit to you** is your only choice, because your free will was given you for your joy in creating the perfect.

**Note # 3:** The separation is not God's Will. The separation is the "mad idea" that led to projection instead of creation. Projection is based on lack. Creation is based on abundance. We, as Children of God, must be perfect since God only extends what He is, which is perfection. Due to the separation, we have forgotten who we are. Believing that we lack something, we abdicate our true creative ability and, thus, are unable to create as God's Sons. This loss of creative power has not actually left us but we have failed to recognize the truth about ourselves. Due to our belief that we lack something, we have forgotten how to use our full creative powers to create in God's image. In this "deep sleep" we have projected (made) a world, which exists only within an illusionary dream based on separation, fear and limitation. We, being the dreamer, perceive our "dream world" to be real because we have chosen to dream it. This dream world of our own projections becomes our "provisional reality." It is provisional since it only exists within the mind of the dreamer. Although this provisional world has no reality in God's creation, it does appear to exist to us, the dreamer. When we awake from the dream and once again realize our divine nature, our dream world will disappear just as darkness disappears when a light is turned on. This personal, private "provisional reality" that we experience as real is the basis for different levels. We have dreamed that there is something that exists or can oppose the truth. We have made up the "false". In this projected dream world of separation, we believe that we are limited ego-bodies rather than unlimited Son's of God. This result is level confusion. Are we spirit or are we a body? The aim of the course is to correct this type of level confusion. Are you a limited ego- body or are you an unlimited spirit?

**Note:** ACIM uses the terms spirit and mind interchangeably. Mind and the brain are not the same. The brain is a physical body part. Mind is your spiritual essence. Mind or spirit is real. The body is a false projection that the ego mistakenly perceives to be what you truly are.

**T-2.I.4.** All fear is ultimately reducible to the basic misperception that you have the ability to usurp the power of God. 2 Of course, you neither can nor have been able to usurp the power of God. 3 **The correction of this basic misperception that you have the ability to usurp the power of God** is the real basis for your escape from fear. 4 The escape is brought about by your acceptance of the Atonement, which enables you to realize that your errors never really occurred. 5 Only after the deep sleep fell upon Adam could he

experience nightmares. 6 If a light is suddenly turned on while someone is dreaming a fearful dream, he may initially interpret the light itself as part of his dream and be afraid of **the light**. 7 However, when he awakens, the light is correctly perceived as the release from the dream, which is then no longer accorded reality. 8 This release does not depend on illusions **but rather the truth that the light brings to your reality that the dream was not real**. 9 The knowledge that illuminates not only sets you free, but also shows you clearly that you *<are>* free.

**Note # 4:** Misperception can only occur in our dream world that has made the false seem possible. The false is anything that would bear false witness to the truth that there exists only the Oneness of the Mind of God. God's reality is perfect and changeless because that is God's Will. Within our dream world of projected, provisional reality, we can pretend that the separation is real. Yet, once the sleeping child is awakened to the truth, all fear-based dreams of separation disappear.

**T-2.I.5.** Whatever lies you may believe are of no concern to the miracle, which can heal any of **the lies you believe** with equal ease. 2 **Miracles** makes no distinctions among misperceptions. 3 **The miracles** sole concern is to distinguish between truth on the one hand, and error on the other **hand**. 4 Some miracles may seem to be of greater magnitude than others **miracles**. 5 But remember the first principle in this course; there is no order of difficulty in miracles. 6 In reality you are perfectly unaffected by all expressions of lack of love. 7 These **expressions of lack of love** can be from yourself and others, from yourself to others, or from others to you. 8 Peace is an attribute *<in>* you. 9 You cannot find **peace** outside. 10 Illness is some form of external searching. 11 Health is inner peace. 12 **Inner peace** enables you to remain unshaken by lack of love from without and **inner peace enables you to remain** capable, through your acceptance of miracles, of correcting the conditions proceeding from lack of love in others. p18

**Note # 5:** There is no order of difficult in miracles. Once we realize that all illusions are equally false, each is easily dissolved before the light of truth. The solution or miracle is always the same correction. An illusion cannot change the reality of truth. Any expression of lack of love is merely a cry for love. Love is the only proper response to a cry for love. Introduce love to the equation and the perceived problem disappears. Love is all that is real and fear's illusions crumble before love. When you know the truth of your divine inheritance nothing except yourself can rob you of your inner peace. Your inner peace can come only from you. No external force or thing can give you inner peace.

## **II. The Atonement as Defense**

**T-2.II.1.** You can do anything I ask. 2 I have asked you to perform miracles, and have made it clear that miracles are natural, corrective, healing and universal. 3 There is nothing **miracles** cannot do, but **miracles** cannot be performed in the spirit of doubt or fear. 4 When you are afraid of anything, you are acknowledging **the item you fear has the** power to hurt you. 5 Remember that where your heart is, there is your treasure also. 6 You believe in what you value. 7 If you are afraid, you are valuing wrongly. 8 **Because you are afraid**, your understanding will then inevitably value wrongly, and by endowing all thoughts with equal power **you** will inevitably destroy peace. 9 That is why the Bible speaks of "the peace of God which passeth understanding." 10 This peace is totally incapable of being shaken by errors of any kind. 11 **This peace of God** denies the ability of

anything not of God to affect you. 12 **The inability of anything not of God to robber you of the peace of God** is the proper use of denial. 13 **This peace of God** is not used to hide anything, but to correct error. 14 **Through the proper use of denial, the peace of God** brings all error into the light, and since error and darkness are the same, **the peace of God** corrects error automatically.

**Note # 6:** When we deny that the false can impact the truth, we are properly using denial. Unfortunately, we normally choose to follow the egoic thought system. The ego denies the truth and then attempts to substitute the false belief that we are a separate, limited ego-body in place of the truth. This is an improper use of denial.

**T-2.II.2.** True denial is a powerful protective device. 2 You can and should deny any belief that error can hurt you. 3 This kind of **true** denial is not a concealment but a correction. 4 Your right mind depends **on the belief that error cannot hurt you**. 5 Denial of error is a strong defense of truth, but denial of truth results in miscreation, the projections of the ego. 6 In the service of the right mind the denial of error frees the mind, and re-establishes the freedom of the will. 7 When the will is really free **the mind** cannot miscreate, because **the mind** recognizes only truth.

**Note # 7:** When you deny the truth, you claim that you are a separate, limited ego-body. This is a denial of the truth about yourself that you really are an unlimited spirit called the Son of God. When you come from fear and limitation, you cannot create in God's image. You have forgotten your birthright. This egoic belief in separation results in miscreation, which is the projection of egoic wrong-mindedness. The proper use of denial is the rejection of any belief that attempts to contradict the truth that you are a Oneness with God, your Creator. The proper use of denial confirms that you are not a body but rather the sinless Son of God who remains perfect, whole and complete as God created you.

**T-2.II.3.** You can defend truth as well as error. 2 The means are easier to understand after the value of the goal is firmly established. 3 It is a question of what **the means** is *<for>*. 4 Everyone defends his treasure, and will do so automatically. 5 The real questions are, what do you treasure, and how much do you treasure it? 6 Once you have learned to consider these questions **of what do you treasure, and how much do you treasure it?** and to bring them into all your actions, you will have little difficulty in clarifying the means. 7 The means are available whenever you ask. 8 You can, however, save time if you do not protract this step **about questioning what you treasure** unduly. 9 The correct focus will shorten **the means** immeasurably.

**Note # 8:** We must decide which thought system to value. Would we prefer to claim that we are a limited ego-body in competition with other ego-bodies or would we rather claim that we are "only" the unlimited spirit of the Oneness that comprises the Mind of God? When we value the egoic thought system, we freely choose to claim to be a limited small "s" self. Although it seems strange that anyone would freely choose littleness over the Big "S" Self, the choice for littleness is also the claim that we are special. The ego would rather be special that know the truth that it is just like everything else in the Oneness of everything. Specialness claims that we could be something other than what God created us to be. Egoic specialness claims that we are not perfect, not whole and very incomplete.

When we understand the choice is between being everything and being an illusion, we can see why ACIM would state that to follow the false logic of the ego is to be insane.

**T-2.II.4.** The Atonement is the only defense that cannot be used destructively because **the Atonement** is not a device you made. 2 The Atonement <*principle*> was in effect long before the Atonement began. 3 The principle was love and the Atonement was an <*act*> of love. 4 Acts were not necessary before the separation, because prior to the separation, belief in space and time did not exist. p19 5 It was only after the separation that the Atonement and the conditions necessary for **the Atonement's** fulfillment were planned. 6 Then a defense so splendid was needed that **the defense** could not be misused, although **the defense** could be refused. 7 Refusal to use the defense (**the Atonement**) could not, however, turn **the Atonement** into a weapon of attack, which is the inherent characteristic of other defenses. 8 The Atonement thus becomes the only defense that is not a two-edged sword. 9 **The atonement** can only heal.

**Note # 9:** Because the Atonement is an act of God's love, it cannot be misused by the ego. Atonement means "at onement" and it testifies only for the truth that the Sonship is like Its Father, perfect, whole and complete. The Atonement states that God's Son remains eternally sinless and guiltless in the Mind of God. Free will allows us the ability to deny this truth of the Oneness but it cannot change this truth.

**T-2.II.5.** The Atonement was built into the space-time belief to set a limit on the need for **the belief in space-time**, and ultimately to make learning complete. 2 The Atonement is the final lesson. 3 Learning itself, like the classrooms in which **learning** occurs, is temporary. 4 The ability to learn has no value when change is no longer necessary. 5 The eternally creative have nothing to learn. 6 You can learn to improve your perceptions, and can become a better and better learner. 7 This will bring you into closer and closer accord with the Sonship; but the Sonship itself is a perfect creation and perfection is not a matter of degree. 8 Only while there is a belief in differences is learning meaningful.

**Note # 10:** The belief of separation resulted in our belief in differences. Prior to the separation, there was only the perfect oneness. Since God's creations are eternal and thus, changeless, we can never lose your true identity as Sons of God. We have simply chosen to forget who we are. The belief in the separation and its resulting mistaken follow-up belief that we are an ego-body gave rise to the belief in time-space. The Atonement utilizes time-space as a learning device to reawaken our mind to who we really are. Time is the measurement of change. It is our egoic belief in differences that spawns the specialness of the separation. When our belief in differences is corrected through acceptance of the Atonement for ourselves, our Oneness will return and perceived differences will fade away.

**T-2.II.6.** Evolution is a process in which you seem to proceed from one degree to the next. 2 You correct your previous missteps by stepping forward. 3 This process of **evolution** is actually incomprehensible in temporal terms, because you return as you go forward. 4 The Atonement is the device by which you can free yourself from the past as you go ahead. 5 **The Atonement** undoes your past errors, thus making it unnecessary for you to keep retracing your steps without advancing to your return. 6 In this sense the Atonement saves time, but like the miracle **the Atonement** serves, **the Atonement** does not abolish **time**. 7 As long as there is need for Atonement, there is need for time. 8 But the

Atonement as a completed plan has a unique relationship to time. 9 Until the Atonement is complete, **the Atonement's** various phases will proceed in time, but the whole Atonement stands at time's end. 10 **When the Atonement is complete** at that point the bridge of return **to knowledge and truth** has been built.

**Note # 11:** Normally, evolution is a change from old to new traits with the new traits being viewed as "better". In our evolutionary cycle, we are attempting to return to our previous condition of knowledge. We are reawakening to the realization that we were, are and always will be perfect. In this regard, we are attempting to get back to our original state of whole-mindedness, which occurred before the dream of separation. ACIM goal is to remove all blocks to love so that only love remains. These blocks to love are the ego's belief that we are separate, limited ego-bodies. Once removed, we reawaken to the truth that we are only the expression of God's Love and that we are Love.

**T-2.II.7.** The Atonement is a total commitment. 2 You may still think **the Atonement** is associated with loss. **The belief that the Atonement is associated with loss** is a mistake all the separated Sons of God make in one way or another. 3 It is hard to believe a defense **like the Atonement** that cannot attack is the best defense. 4 This is what is meant by "the meek shall inherit the earth." 5 **The meek** will literally take **the earth** over because of **the meek's** strength. 6 A two-way defense is inherently weak precisely because **a two-way defense** has two edges, and can be turned against you very unexpectedly. 7 This possibility cannot be controlled except by miracles p20 8 The miracle turns the defense of Atonement to your real protection, and as you become more and more secure **in your real protection**, you assume your natural talent of protecting others, knowing yourself as both a brother and a Son.

**Note # 12:** ACIM's use of the term "Atonement" differs than how it is understood by most religious circles. Western fundamental religions define the atonement as a process in which someone or something must be sacrificed to make amends (atone) for someone's errors, which are called sins against God. ACIM utilizes the word 'Atonement' as the acceptance of the truth that God's Son could never be guilty of any sin since God created him to be changeless perfection. Without the belief in separation, there is no one to sin against. Our denial of the fact that we are an indivisible Oneness is not viewed as a sin but merely as an error in thinking that needs to be corrected. No punishment is warranted since an illusion has no impact on truth. A make-believe illusion that calls for the shattering of a Oneness can have no affect on the Oneness that is the Mind of God. No sin has occurred since an illusion has no power to change reality.

### **III. The Altar of God**

**T-2.III.1.** The Atonement can only be accepted within you by releasing the inner light. 2 Since the separation, defenses have been used almost entirely to defend *<against>* the Atonement, and thus maintain the separation. 3 **The defenses of the separation are** generally seen as a need to protect the body. 4 The many body fantasies in which minds engage arise from the distorted belief that the body can be used as a means for attaining "atonement." 5 Perceiving the body as a temple is only the first step in correcting this distortion, **because perceiving the body as a temple** alters only part of **this distortion**. 6 **Perceiving the body as a temple** *<does>* recognize that Atonement in physical terms is impossible. 7 The next step, however, is to realize that a temple is not a structure at all. 8 A

**temple's** true holiness lies at the inner altar around which the structure is built. 9 The emphasis on beautiful structures is a sign of the fear of Atonement, and an unwillingness to reach the altar itself. 10 The real beauty of the temple cannot be seen with the physical eye. 11 Spiritual sight, on the other hand, cannot see the structure at all because **spiritual sight** is perfect vision. 12 **Spiritual sight** can, however, see the altar with perfect clarity.

**Note # 13:** Atonement for ACIM purpose takes place at the level of Mind. It was at the level of the Mind that the problem of the belief in separation, sin, guilty and fear arose. It is at the level of Mind that healing must take place. ACIM's Atonement has nothing to do with the physical level of the body.

**Note:** The term light is often used interchangeably with truth and symbolizes truth.

**T-2.III.2.** For perfect effectiveness the Atonement belongs at the center of the inner altar, where **the Atonement** undoes the separation and restores the wholeness of the mind. 2 Before the separation the mind was invulnerable to fear, because fear did not exist. 3 Both the separation and the fear are miscreations that must be undone for the restoration of the temple, and for the opening of the altar to receive the Atonement. 4 **The undoing of the miscreation of both the separation and fear is the restoration of the temple that** heals the separation by placing within you the one effective defense (**the Atonement**) against all separation thoughts and making you perfectly invulnerable.

**Note # 14:** The Atonement process is the acceptance of the truth that God's creations remain as God created them. We remain sinless and guiltless.

**T-2.III.3.** The acceptance of the Atonement by everyone is only a matter of time. 2 This **acceptance of the Atonement by everyone** may appear to contradict free will because of the inevitability of the final decision, but this is not so. 3 You can temporize and you are capable of enormous procrastination, but you cannot depart entirely from your Creator, Who set the limits on your ability to miscreate. 4 An imprisoned will engenders a situation, which, in the extreme, becomes altogether intolerable. p21 5 Tolerance for pain may be high, but **tolerance for pain** is not without limit. 6 Eventually everyone begins to recognize, however dimly, that there *<must>* be a better way. 7 As this recognition becomes more firmly established, **this recognition that there *<must>* be a better way** becomes a turning point. 8 This **recognition that there *<must>* be a better way** ultimately reawakens spiritual vision, simultaneously weakening the investment in physical sight. 9 The alternating investment in the two levels of perception is usually experienced as conflict, which can become very acute. 10 But the outcome is as certain as God.

**Note # 15:** Eventually, we suffer so much pain that we voluntarily decide to reevaluate who we are. We reexamine our egoic belief system. We decide there must be another way. The egoic thought system only results in dissatisfaction and pain. There must be something better than the ego's plan and thought system. We ask our Inner Guide to show us another way. Eventually, by listening to the Voice Within, we realized that we are not an ego-body but rather a spiritual being, a Son of God. We start to view ourselves more and more as spiritual beings, perfect, whole and complete as God created us. We drop our misguided belief that we are the physical body. We change our level of thinking from the physical level to the spirit level.

**T-2.III.4.** Spiritual vision literally cannot see error, and merely looks for Atonement. 2 All solutions the physical eye seeks dissolve. 3 Spiritual vision looks within **ourselves to our temple** and recognizes immediately that the altar has been defiled **by our erroneous belief we are a separate body** and **that the altar** needs to be repaired and protected. 4 Perfectly aware of the right defense which is the Atonement, spiritual vision passes over all others defense, looking past error to truth. 5 Because of the strength of **spiritual** vision, it brings the mind into the **spirit's** service. 6 This re-establishes the power of the mind and makes **the mind** increasingly unable to tolerate delay, realizing that **delay** only adds unnecessary pain. 7 As a result **of the spirit's re-establishing its power over the mind**, the mind becomes increasingly sensitive to what **the mind** would once have regarded as very minor intrusions of discomfort.

**Note # 16:** As we turn our mind over to the influence of the thought system of the Holy Spirit, we realize that the egoic thought system does not work. The favorable results that are achieved by utilizing the guidance of the Holy Spirit only increase our continued use of our Inner Voice for truth. We have flashes of inner peace that only lead us to wanting more such experiences. The false egoic belief that we are limited ego-bodies becomes distasteful.

**T-2.III.5.** The children of God are entitled to the perfect comfort that comes from perfect trust. 2 Until **the children of God** achieve **this perfect comfort that comes from perfect trust**, they waste themselves and their true creative powers on useless attempts to make themselves more comfortable by inappropriate means. 3 But the real means (**the Atonement**) are already provided, and do not involve any effort at all on their part. 4 The Atonement is the only gift that is worthy of being offered at the altar of God, because of the value of the altar itself. 5 **The altar** was created perfect and is entirely worthy of receiving perfection. **This altar, which is God's Son as God created His Son was defiled by both the son's belief in the separation and of fear.** 6 God and His creations are completely dependent on Each Other. 7 **God** depends on **His creations** *<because>* **God** created **His creations** perfect. 8 **God** gave **His creations** His peace so **His creations** could not be shaken and could not be deceived. 9 Whenever you are afraid you *<are>* deceived, and your mind cannot serve the Holy Spirit. 10 This starves you by denying you your daily bread. 11 God is lonely without His Sons, and **His Sons** are lonely without **God**. 12 **His Sons** must learn to look upon the world as a means of healing the separation. 13 The Atonement is the guarantee that **His Sons** will ultimately succeed. p22

**Note # 17:** Our safety lies in the truth of what we are. Because we are an extension of the Mind of God, we must be like our Creator. God is the Cause and the Son is the Effect. They are inseparable. The egoic belief that an effect can somehow change its original source or cause is impossible. Without its cause, which is the Mind of God, the effect would cease to exist. Both cause and effect are interrelated and thus are "joined at the hip. Cause without its effect is no longer cause. Each completes the other and is inseparable. Since there is only the Mind of God, which is Truth, the effect must also rest in the truth. Being of one Will, the effect must mirror its cause. In this case, the Mind of God is the first Cause. The Atonement merely acknowledges the truth that we, the Effect, remain as we were created, perfect, whole and complete. We are an inseparable part of the entire Oneness that is the Mind of God. We are that One. This is the "at onement" of the Atonement. There is no separation.



#### IV. Healing as Release from Fear

**T-2.IV.1.** Our emphasis is now on healing. 2 The miracle is the means **to heal**, the Atonement is the principle **to heal**, and healing is the result. 3 To speak of "a miracle of healing" is to combine two orders of reality inappropriately. 4 Healing is not a miracle. 5 The Atonement, or the final miracle, is a remedy and any type of healing is a result. 6 The kind of error to which Atonement is applied is irrelevant. 7 All healing is essentially the release from fear. 8 To undertake this **healing from fear**, you cannot be fearful yourself. 9 You do not understand healing because of your own fear.

**Note # 17:** Fear is birthed out of our belief that separation from our Source, the Mind of God, is possible. It is the thinking of the fearful person that must be corrected. By our mind's acceptance of the Atonement principle, which is the truth about our sinless and guiltless nature, all fear is dissolved. The Atonement is the acceptance of the truth about our divine birthright and that separation from our Source is an impossibility.

**T-2.IV.2.** A major step in the Atonement plan is to undo error at all levels. 2 Sickness or "not-right-mindedness" is the result of level confusion, because **sickness** always entails the belief that what is amiss on one level can adversely affect another. 3 We have referred to miracles as the means of correcting level confusion, for all mistakes must be corrected at the level on which they occur. 4 Only the mind is capable of error. 5 The body can act wrongly only when **the body** is responding to misthought **of the mind**. 6 The body cannot create, and the belief that **the body can create** is a fundamental error. **The fundamental error that the body can create** produces all physical symptoms. 7 Physical illness represents a belief in magic. 8 The whole distortion that made magic rests on the belief that there is a creative ability in matter which the mind cannot control. 9 This error can take two forms; **one form of this error** can be **the belief** that the mind can miscreate in the body, or **the second form of this error** is that the body can miscreate in the mind. 10 When it is understood that the mind, **not the body, is** the only level of creation and **that the mind** cannot create beyond itself, neither type of confusion need occur.

**Note # 18:** Mind is the level of creation. The body is the projection of the mind. As such, the body is an effect of the mind. Just as the Son cannot change the Father, the body cannot change its cause, which is mind. Magic denies our own creative powers of the mind. Magic claims that there is something outside our mind that we lack and that this "something outside" has creative powers that can change our reality. Magic is based of the belief that due to the separation, we are not perfect and that something outside of mind can make us whole again. Magic claims that creative power exists at some level other than mind. It claims that an illusion at the level of bodily form can change or affect the level of mind.

**T-2.IV.3.** Only the mind can create because spirit has already been created, and the body is a learning device for the mind. 2 Learning devices are not lessons in themselves. 3 All learning devices, like the body, purpose is merely to facilitate learning. 4 The worst a faulty use of a learning device can do is to fail to facilitate learning. 5 **The learning device** has no power in itself to introduce actual learning errors. 6 The body, if properly understood, shares the invulnerability of the Atonement to two-edged application. 7 This is not because the body is a miracle, but because **the body** is not inherently open to misinterpretation. 8 The body is merely part of your experience in the physical world. 9 **The body's** abilities can be and frequently are overevaluated. 10 However, it is almost

impossible to deny **the body's** existence in this world. 11 **Those who do deny the body's existence in this world** are engaging in a particularly unworthy form of denial. 12 The term "unworthy" here implies only that **this denial** is not necessary to protect the mind by denying the unmindful. p23 13 If one denies this unfortunate aspect of the mind's power (**the mind's ability to make or miscreate on behalf of the ego**), one is also denying the power itself (**the mind's power to create like God**).

**Note # 19:** The body, along with this physical world, is evidence of our ability to create or make, which is miscreation. Only when we come from our true spiritual essence as Son's of God's Love do we have the ability to create like our Father. If we come from the split mind of the ego, we have the ability to make or miscreate. Our split mind can only project illusionary forms that are based on fear and limitation. When we believe that we are limited to the body, we cannot create like the Father because we come from lack. When we attempt to use the learning device of the body as the source of our creative power, we simply fail to create. This failure is not a sin but merely an unsuccessful attempt at creation. As such, it is a mistake that has no affect on the Mind of God.

**T-2.IV.4.** All material means that you accept as remedies for bodily ills are restatements of magic principles. 2 This **acceptance of physical remedies for bodily ills** is the first step in believing that the body makes its own illness. 3 It is a second misstep to attempt to heal **the body** through non-creative agents. 4 It does not follow, however, that the use of such agents for corrective purposes is evil. 5 Sometimes the illness has a sufficiently strong hold over the mind to render a person temporarily inaccessible to the Atonement. 6 In this case **when a person is temporarily inaccessible to the Atonement**, it may be wise to utilize a compromise approach to mind and body, in which something from the outside is temporarily given healing belief. 7 This is because the last thing that can help the non-right-minded, or the sick, is an increase in fear. 8 **The non-right-minded** are already in a fear-weakened state **of mind**. 9 If **the non-right-minded** are prematurely exposed to a miracle, **the sick-minded** may be precipitated into panic. 10 This is likely to occur when upside-down perception has induced the belief that miracles are frightening.

**Note # 20:** The body is a neutral learning device. Although the spirit cannot be sick, you can erroneously believe that you are a body. Due to this error in thinking, the mind takes the learning device of the body and makes it "sick". If you believe you are a body, your mind may become too frightened to accept the reality that you are spirit and not a body. The "sick person's mind may not be able to handle the fact that its own erroneous thinking has caused its body to be "sick". Rather than frighten the sick person more, it may be advisable to utilize "conventional medical treatments" since the mind is temporarily incapable of overriding its egoic mind's belief that it is a "sick physical body". This sick person's belief in the power of an outside agent to affect change within its body will allow the sick person's own creative powers of mind to correct and heal its own body. It is the patient's mind, not the outside agent, which causes the healing.

**General Note about doctors and medicine:** Although all healing is at the level of mind, ACIM states that you should never do anything that would increase the fear of a patient or your own. Instead, ACIM suggest that we utilize a "magic pill." This "pill" will help reduce the patient's fear and thus, allow the patient's mind to recover its creative ability and if desired to go about doing the actual healing which may include the physical body.

ACIM thus does not suggest that you refuse medical treatment to prove that the learning device of the body is not real. Rather, we should maintain and honor the body as a learning device that aids us in our rediscovering of what we are. Aided by the body, we learn about our true spiritual essence and that our real purpose is to be and teach only love. Ignoring or abusing our body may not be the best way to teach and be only love.

**T-2.IV.5.** The value of the Atonement does not lie in the manner in which **the Atonement** is expressed. 2 In fact, if **the Atonement** is used truly, **the Atonement** will inevitably be expressed in whatever way is most helpful to the receiver. 3 This means that a miracle, to attain its full efficacy (**power to produce**), must be expressed in a language that the recipient can understand without fear. 4 This does not necessarily mean that this **language that the recipient can understand without fear**, is the highest level of communication of which he is capable. 5 It does mean, however, that **this language** is the highest level of communication of which he is capable of *<now>*. 6 The whole aim of the miracle is to raise the level of communication, not to lower **the level of communication** by increasing fear.

**Note # 21:** The underlying principle that rules the thought system of the Holy Spirit is to never do anything that would increase someone's fear. In healing, like all other experience in time and space, our goal should never be to do anything that would increase the level of fear in our brother or ourselves. Fear is counterproductive and makes the illusion of separation from our Source appear real. We must meet our brother at the highest level of understanding that he is currently capable of achieving in the *<now>* of this present moment. We, like the Holy Spirit, may have to help him "baby-step his way back to the truth. Yet due to the Atonement principle, we know that the return to truth is the inevitable result of God's Plan for His Son's reawakening to his divine birthright.

## **V. The Function of the Miracle Worker**

**T-2.V.1.** Before miracle workers are ready to undertake their function in this world, it is essential that **the miracle worker** fully understand the fear of release. 2 **Unless they fully understand the fear of release, the miracle worker** may unwittingly foster the belief that release is imprisonment, a belief that is already very prevalent. 3 This misperception **that release is imprisonment** arises in turn from the belief that harm can be limited to the body. 4 That is because of the underlying fear that the mind can hurt itself. 5 None of these errors is meaningful, because the miscreations of the mind do not really exist. 6 This recognition **that the miscreations of the mind do not really exist** is a far better protective device than any form of level confusion, because **the recognition that the miscreations of the mind do not exist**, introduces correction at the level of the error. p24 7 It is essential to remember that only the mind can create, and that correction belongs at the thought level. 8 To amplify an earlier statement, spirit is already perfect and therefore does not require correction. 9 The body does not exist except as a learning device for the mind. 10 This learning device **of the body** is not subject to errors of its own, because **the body as a learning device** cannot create. 11 It is obvious, then, that inducing the mind to give up **the mind's** miscreations is the only application of creative ability that is truly meaningful.

**Note # 22:** For a correction to be meaningful, we must deal with the actual error, not with some effect that is the result of the error. Since the body is not the source of the error, the

error cannot be corrected at the level of the body. The error is at the level of mind. It is the thought of separation that must be healed. Separation from the Oneness is the cause of fear. By correcting this erroneous thought, all the effects of fear also disappear. To attempt to resolve the problem at the body level is only a futile attempt at masking the problem. Until the root cause is corrected, the problem will not go away. We need only realize that our past thoughts that sought to deny the truth cannot change the truth. We still remain unlimited spirit as God created us. We remain perfect, whole and complete; a Oneness of "All That Is".

**T-2.V.2.** Magic is the mindless or the miscreative use of mind. 2 Physical medications are forms of "spells," but if you are afraid to use the mind to heal, you should not attempt to do so. 3 The very fact that you are afraid makes your mind vulnerable to miscreation. 4 You are therefore likely to misunderstand any healing that might occur, and because egocentricity and fear usually occur together, you may be unable to accept the real Source of the healing. 5 Under these conditions **where you are afraid to use the mind to heal**, it is safer for you to rely temporarily on physical healing devices, because you cannot misperceive **the physical healing devices** as your own creations. 6 As long as your sense of vulnerability persists, you should not attempt to perform miracles.

**Note # 23:** Magic is the use of outside devices to heal or modify a perceived problem. Magic's only power comes from the person's own belief that they are not perfect, not whole, nor complete. Magic has no power unless you choose to abdicate your own power as the creator of your own experience. Magic is the belief that you lack something and that something outside yourself can give you what you are missing. As Child of God, you have been given everything. You cannot lack anything. You can choose to deny your divine birthright. When you do this, you believe and make your illusion of separation from the Oneness appear real.

**T-2.V.3.** I have already said that miracles are expressions of miracle-mindedness, and miracle-mindedness means right-mindedness. 2 The right-minded neither exalt nor depreciate the mind of the miracle worker or the miracle receiver. 3 However, as a correction, the miracle need not await the right-mindedness of the receiver. 4 In fact, **the miracles** purpose is to restore **the receiver** <to> his right mind. 5 It is essential, however, that the miracle worker be in his right mind, however briefly, or **the miracle worker** will be unable to re-establish right-mindedness in someone else.

**Note # 24:** The miracle restores the receiver's mind to correct thinking. In order for a miracle to occur, someone must be willing to follow the guidance of the Holy Spirit. If both parties are under the guidance of their egoic thought system, the Holy Spirit will be unable to correct the mind's misperception. Someone must be willing, at least momentarily, to ask and follow his or her Inner Guide, which is the Holy Spirit or Christ consciousness. If the Holy Spirit were to act alone without some party's invitation, this would only increase that party's fear. The Holy Spirit will do nothing that would increase fear and, therefore, He waits patiently on the "sidelines" until someone invites Him to take charge.

**T-2.V.4.** The healer who relies on his own readiness is endangering his understanding. 2 You are perfectly safe as long as you are completely unconcerned about your readiness, but maintain a consistent trust in **my (Jesus or the Holy Spirit's)**

**readiness.** 3 If your miracle working inclinations are not functioning properly, **the malfunction** is always because fear has intruded on your right-mindedness and has turned **your right-mindedness** upside down. 4 All forms of not-right-mindedness are the result of refusal to accept the Atonement for yourself. 5 If you do accept **the Atonement for yourself**, you are in a position to recognize that those who need healing are simply those who have not realized that right-mindedness <is> healing.

**Note # 25:** We are responsible for controlling our fear. By accepting the Atonement for ourselves, all fear dissipates. This is due to the fact that you understand that you are the perfect, sinless and guiltless extension of the Mind of God. There is no separation so there can be nothing to fear.

**T-2.V.5.**        <The sole responsibility of the miracle worker is to accept the Atonement for himself.> p25 2 This means you recognize that mind is the only creative level, and that **the mind's** errors are healed by the Atonement. 3 Once you accept this, your mind can only heal. 4 By denying your mind any destructive potential and reinstating **the mind's** purely constructive powers, you place yourself in a position to undo the level confusion of others. 5 The message you then give to **the confused** is the truth that their minds are similarly constructive, and their miscreations cannot hurt them. 6 By affirming this **truth that their minds are similarly constructive, and their miscreations cannot hurt them** you release the mind from over evaluating its own learning device (**the body**), and restore the mind to **the mind's** true position as the learner.

**Note # 26:** By accepting the Atonement for yourself, you reclaim the truth about yourself. Once you know the truth of what you are, you are in a position to help others rediscover that same truth about themselves. Prior to this, it was only one deluded mind trying to help another, similarly deluded mind. It is foolish to seek advice from the insane.

**T-2.V.6.**        It should be emphasized again that the body does not learn any more than **the body** creates. 2 As a learning device **the body** merely follows the learner, but if **the learning device, the body**, is falsely endowed with self-initiative, **the body** becomes a serious obstruction to the very learning **the body** should facilitate. 3 Only the mind is capable of illumination. 4 Spirit is already illuminated and the body in itself is too dense. 5 The mind, however, can bring **the mind's** illumination to the body by recognizing that **the body** is not the learner, and **therefore, the body is** unamenable to learning. 6 The body is, however, easily brought into alignment with a mind that has learned to look beyond **the body** toward the light.

**Note # 27:** The body follows the mind's direction. It is only when the mind abdicates its creative responsibility to the body that the body appears to be in charge. The actual cause of this role reversal is the "victim's" own desire to pretend that the body controls the mind. Ultimately, even in the deepest state of victim consciousness, it is the victim's own mind that is in control.

**T-2.V.7.**        Corrective learning always begins with the awakening of spirit, and the turning away from the belief in physical sight. 2 This **turning away from the belief in physical sight** often entails fear, because you are afraid of what your spiritual sight will show you. 3 I said before that the Holy Spirit cannot see error, and **the Holy Spirit** is

capable only of looking beyond **error** to the defense of Atonement. 4 There is no doubt that **looking beyond error** may produce discomfort, yet the discomfort is not the final outcome of the perception. 5 When the Holy Spirit is permitted to look upon the defilement of the altar, **the Holy Spirit** also looks immediately toward the Atonement. 6 Nothing **the Holy Spirit** perceives can induce fear. 7 Everything that results from spiritual awareness is merely channelized toward correction. 8 Discomfort is aroused only to bring the need for correction into awareness.

**Note # 28:** The Holy Spirit is aware that what you perceive to be our reality is merely the illusion of separation. It is not part of the Mind of God. The Oneness remains unbroken and unharmed. Yet until the dreamer awakens to the truth that he or she was merely dreaming, the dream will appear to be real within his or her egoic split-mind. In the awakening process, we disregard or look past the physical senses. We understand that we are not the body. Until we began to realize that we are a spiritual being having a temporary physical experience in time and space, we will remain trapped in the egoic thinking that the separation is real and that we have something to fear.

**T-2.V.8.** The fear of healing arises in the end from an unwillingness to accept unequivocally that healing is necessary. 2 What the physical eye sees is not corrective, nor can error be corrected by any device that can be seen physically. 3 As long as you believe in what your physical sight tells you, your attempts at correction will be misdirected. 4 The real vision (**spiritual sight**) is obscured, because you cannot endure to see your own defiled altar. 5 But since the altar has been defiled, your state becomes doubly dangerous unless **the defiled altar** *<is>* perceived. p26

**Note # 29:** The defiled altar is your true self as God created you. In truth, you remain a sinless and perfect oneness. Yet, you perceive yourself to be something other than God's Child. Your true Big "S" Self is defiled due to your belief in the separation and your view of yourself as a physical body. This error cannot be corrected at the physical (body) level since the error is at the level of creation. The level of creation is the mind and the healing/correction must occur at this level.

**T-2.V.9.** Healing is an ability that developed after the separation, before **the separation** healing was unnecessary. 2 Like all aspects of the belief in space and time, **healing** is temporary. 3 However, as long as time persists, healing is needed as a means of protection. 4 This is because healing rests on charity, and charity is a way of perceiving the perfection of another even if you cannot perceive **the perfection** in yourself. 5 Most of the loftier concepts of which you are capable now are time-dependent. 6 Charity is really a weaker reflection of a much more powerful love-encompassment that is far beyond any form of charity you can conceive of as yet. 7 Charity is essential to right-mindedness in the limited sense in which **right-mindedness** can now be attained.

**Note # 30:** Charity allows us to look past our physical senses to the spiritual truth that our brother is much more than a body. We perceive our brother to be spirit or mind. We accord him the truth of his perfect "higher" nature. His spiritual reality is something that our physical sense would deny to him and ourselves.

**T-2.V.10.** Charity is a way of looking at another as if **the other person** had already gone far beyond his actual accomplishments in time. 2 Since **the other person's** own thinking is faulty he cannot see the Atonement for himself, or he would have no need of charity. 3 The charity that is accorded **the other person** is both an acknowledgment that he needs help, and a recognition that he will accept **help**. 4 Both of these perceptions **that he needs and will accept help** clearly imply their dependence on time, making it apparent that charity still lies within the limitations of this world. 5 I said before that only revelation transcends time. 6 The miracle, as an expression of charity, can only shorten **time**. 7 It must be understood, however, that whenever you offer a miracle to another, you are shortening the suffering of both of you. 8 This **miracle** corrects retroactively as well as progressively.

**Note # 31:** The miracle grants to another person's split-mind the truth of what they truly are as opposed to how they may currently, incorrectly perceive themselves to be. Their incorrect perception is based on their erroneous belief that they are a limited ego-body. By looking past the physical toward their true spiritual nature, the other person moves both the giver and receiver of the miracle down the timeline towards their full acceptance of the Atonement for themselves. The miracle is a change in the mind's misperception. As such, it implies change that requires time for change is what time measures.

#### **A. Special Principles of Miracle Workers**

**T-2.V.A.11.** (1) The miracle abolishes the need for lower-order concerns. 2 Since **the miracle** is an out-of-pattern time interval, the ordinary considerations of time and space do not apply. 3 When you perform a miracle, I will arrange both time and space to adjust to **the miracle**.

**Note # 32:** The miracle is not bound by time and space. The miracle occurs at the level of mind, which is "higher up the ladder" and thus, closer to the truth than the level of physical time and space. The miracle utilizes the laws of God instead of the laws of egoic misperception.

**T-2.V.A.12.** (2) A clear distinction between what is created and what is made is essential. 2 All forms of healing rest on this fundamental correction in level perception.

**Note # 33:** When the mind believes it is an ego-body, the mind cannot create because it believes in lack and fear. Under this condition, the split mind can only "make" since the mind is under the control of the ego and wrong-mindedness. "Made things" are not perfect, whole and complete. "Made things" are subject to change and thus, only exist in our temporary dream state of provisional reality. Only creation, which is the shared extension of love, is eternal and changeless. When we "make", we miscreate because we fail to create in our true spiritual image as God's Child, who is always perfect, whole and complete. It is our erroneous belief of what we are that prevents us from creating. Creation is an extension of what we truly are. We are part of the holographic Mind of God, which is the Oneness of "All That Is." We are love and love can be extended without any loss to the giver. When a mind is under the influence of the ego (wrong-mindedness), the mind is in a state of fear and, therefore, cannot create because the mind falsely believes it lacks something. Under this perceived condition of fear and lack, love does not appear to exist and the split mind cannot create. Only Love can create or extend since only Love gives all

without any expectation of return. God is the embodiment of Love. As His Son made in His image, we must also be Love. Due to our free will we have the ability to forget who we are but we do not have the ability to lose what we are. What God has given us can never be lost since this is not God's will for His creations. We are not a body since God did not create this "physical thing" we call our body. In our dream of separation, we perceive that we are physical form and have made a body. It is the ego, not God that made the body. In eternity, we are always as God created us, a perfect whole and complete Oneness within the Mind of God.

**T-2.V.A.13.** (3) Never confuse right- and wrong-mindedness. 2 Responding to any form of error with anything except a desire to heal is an expression of this confusion.

**Note # 34:** Right-mindedness is associated with the thought system of the Holy Spirit; wrong-mindedness with the thought system of the ego.

**T-2.V.A.14.** (4) The miracle is always a denial of this error of **wrong-mindedness** and an affirmation of the truth of **right-mindedness**. 2 Only right-mindedness can correct in a way that has any real effect. 3 Pragmatically, what has no real effect has no real existence. p27 4 **What has no real effect**, then, is emptiness. 5 Being without substantial content, **wrong-mindedness** lends itself to projection.

**Note # 35:** This error in perception is ultimately the erroneous belief that we are separate. Our belief in separateness leads to the wrong-mindedness of the split mind. If we attempt to correct one misperception with another misperception, we still remain in confusion. Both misperceptions are equally false and thus have no impact on the reality of truth.

**T-2.V.A.15.** (5) The level-adjustment power of the miracle induces the right perception for healing. 2 Until this **right perception** has occurred healing cannot be understood. 3 Forgiveness is an empty gesture unless **forgiveness** entails correction. 4 Without this **correction, forgiveness** is essentially judgmental, rather than healing.

**Note # 36:** The miracle changes misperception into correct perception. It replaces the belief in separation with the belief in uniting and Oneness.

**T-2.V.A.16.** (6) Miracle-minded forgiveness is *<only>* correction. 2 **Miracle-minded forgiveness** has no element of judgment at all. 3 The statement "Father forgive them for they know not what they do" in no way evaluates *<what>* they do. 4 **This statement** is an appeal to God to heal their minds. 5 **In this statement** there is no reference to the outcome of the error. 6 **The outcome of the error** does not matter.

**Note # 37:** Error is treated simply as a mistake from which we are asked to choose again. There is no judgment of wrongdoing or repentance extracted from the error-maker. The deluded mind is not punished. Instead the wrong-minded are told to choose again. The miracle-maker understands that illusions can have no affect on the Mind of God or the Sonship's divine inheritance.

**T-2.V.A.17.** (7) The injunction "Be of one mind" is the statement for revelation-readiness. 2 My request "Do this in remembrance of me" is the appeal for cooperation from



miracle workers. 3 The two statements are not in the same order of reality. 4 Only the latter statement “do this in remembrance of me”, involves an awareness of time, since to remember is to recall the past in the present. 5 Time is under my direction, but timelessness belongs to God. 6 In time we exist for and with each other. 7 In timelessness we coexist with God.

**Note # 38:** While under the illusion that the separation is real, we perceive ourselves to be in the realm of time. Time measures change in perception. Knowledge or truth does not change and, therefore, is timeless. Time exists as long as the united Sonship believes Itself to be incomplete, different and separate. With the end of time, the once apparently fragmented Sonship is returned to the wholeness of correct-mindedness.

**T-2.V.A.18.** (8) You can do much on behalf of your own healing and that of others if, in a situation calling for help, you think of **the situation calling for help** this way:

*2 I am here only to be truly helpful.*

*3 I am here to represent Him Who sent me.*

*4 I do not have to worry about what to say or what to do, because He Who sent me will direct me.*

*5 I am content to be wherever He wishes, knowing He goes there with me.*

*6 I will be healed as I let Him teach me to heal.*

**Note # 39:** Being an extension of our Creator, we are a conduit for God’s love. The Holy Spirit is the Voice for God. By following the thought system of the Holy Spirit, we will heal the mind of the Sonship and return the once split mind to right-mindedness. God’s plan for His Child’s return to knowledge will be accomplished for it is God’s Will.

## **VI. Fear and Conflict**

**T-2.VI.1.** Being afraid seems to be involuntary; something beyond your own control. 2 Yet I have said already that only constructive acts should be involuntary. 3 My control can take over everything that does not matter, while my guidance can direct everything that does **matter**, if you so choose. 4 Fear cannot be controlled by me, but **fear** can be self-controlled. 5 **Your** fear prevents me from giving you my control. 6 The presence of fear shows that you have raised body thoughts to the level of the mind. p28 7 **When you raise body thoughts to the level of the mind**, this removes these **body thoughts** from my control, and makes you feel personally responsible for **these body thoughts**. 8 This is an obvious confusion of levels.

**Note # 40:** Since fear is self-induced, we must learn to control our fear. Jesus, a symbol for the Holy Spirit, can guide our mind in all areas that matter. Only love is real and our return to knowledge requires placing our mind under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Thoughts of love and forgiveness become the only thoughts that matter since they are real. Illusionary thought projections based on the belief of separation and lack are not real and of no consequence. These egoic thought projections can and are being reinterpreted by the Holy Spirit to bring about the return of the split-minded back to the truth of what they are. These same egoic thought projections when reinterpreted by the Holy Spirit now become part of God’s Plan to return the Sonship to knowledge. When we are in fear-based thought patterns, we can control our fear by stopping what we are thinking and asking for the Holy Spirit’s guidance. We must claim responsibility for our thoughts. Fear is the result of

mistakenly identifying your spiritual essence as a limited ego-body. When we do this, we have made the body the apparent controller of our mind. This is an attempt by our ego to make the false appear real. This results in level confusion, which is the egoic attempt to mix or replace the true with the false. Fear arises when we value an illusion over the truth. We fear that we might lose this imagined projection that we value. We have attempted to raise a bodily illusion to the creative level of mind and thus, denied that we bear responsibility for the illusion in the first place.

Constructive acts, which within the dream of separation are acts of love and forgiveness, should flow involuntary since they are our natural state. Miracle-mindedness is the mindset of our Christ consciousness.

**T-2.VI.2.** I do not foster level confusion, but you must choose to correct **level confusion**. 2 You would not excuse insane behavior on your part by saying you could not help it. 3 Why should you condone insane thinking? 4 There is a confusion here that you would do well to look at clearly. 5 You may believe that you are responsible for what you do, but not for what you think. 6 The truth is that you are responsible for what you think, because it is only at this level of **thought** that you can exercise choice. 7 What you do comes from what you think. 8 You cannot separate yourself from the truth by "giving" autonomy to behavior. 9 **Behavior** is controlled by me automatically as soon as you place what you think under my guidance. 10 Whenever you are afraid, it is a sure sign that you have allowed your mind to miscreate and have not allowed me to guide **your mind**.

**Note # 41:** Thoughts are things. Everything we do originates from thought. We control our thoughts. It is the denial of the belief that we control our thoughts that leads us down the self-imposed road of victim consciousness. It has been said. "Sow a thought; you reap an action. Sow an action; you reap a habit. Sow a habit; you reap a character. Sow a character; you reap a destiny." We need to take responsibility for what we think because thinking is the creative aspect of the mind. Once the thought has been released, the mind will "make or create" the desired outcome. The behavior is the effect of the thought. The thought is the cause of the behavior. Thoughts are things. But be careful what you think since you will get what you really thought about; not what you said or what you meant to say. Fear based thoughts result in miscreations that are made out of the belief in lack. These fear-based thoughts result in behavior or activity on the body level that support the belief that we exist as separate, limited ego-bodies in competition with other ego-bodies. As such, they engender fear, conflict and struggle. These egoic miscreations make the illusion appear real within the mind of the dreamer. Thoughts always precede the behavior. Thoughts are causative, not the other way around. The ego claims that your thoughts are the reactions to behaviors that are outside your control. This misperceiving of cause for effect and effect for cause is level confusion.

**T-2.VI.3.** It is pointless to believe that controlling the outcome of misthought can result in healing. 2 When you are fearful, you have chosen wrongly. 3 **Your fearful misthinking** is why you feel responsible for **choosing wrongly**. 4 You must change your mind, not your behavior, and this < **changing of your mind is** > a matter of willingness. 5 You do not need guidance except at the mind level. 6 Correction belongs only at the **mind** level where change is possible. 7 Change does not mean anything at the symptom level, where **change** cannot work.

**Note # 42:** Since the error is at the level of creative mind, we need guidance and correction at that same level of mind since this is where the problem occurred. To attempt correction on the level of the behavior is attempting to heal the effect rather than deal with the cause. The cause is always at the higher level of the mind, which is where the power of creation or making resides. Correct the mistaken thought and healing will result. Level confusion takes place when we attempt to correct something on one level with something from another level. In this case, we attempt to treat the effect rather than the cause. We need to go to the source of the original error, which is always our belief in the separation from our Source. We have temporarily forgotten that we are spirit, not a body. We need the Holy Spirit guidance to remember that we are God's Creation; always sinless and guiltless as God created His Child.

**T-2.VI.4.** The correction of fear <is> your responsibility. 2 When you ask for release from fear, you are implying that **fear** is not **your responsibility**. 3 You should ask, instead, for help in the conditions that have brought the fear about. 4 These conditions always entail a willingness to be separate. 5 At that level (**level of the mind**) you <can> help **correct the fear**. 6 You are much too tolerant of mind wandering, and are passively condoning your mind's miscreations. 7 The particular result does not matter, but the fundamental error does **matter**. 8 The correction is always the same. 9 Before you choose to do anything, ask me if your choice is in accord with mine. 10 If you are sure that **your choice is in accord with mine** there will be no fear.

**Note # 43:** Whatever form the result takes does not matter because the result is not the cause. To correct the error we need to be on the level of the error. The error occurs at the level of the mind. We need to correct the mistaken thought. The fundamental error is the erroneous belief in the separation. It is our split-minded egoic attempts at separation that need correction. The ego has once again raised body thoughts to the level of mind. This identification of yourself as the body is the cause of your fear.

**T-2.VI.5.** Fear is always a sign of strain. **Fear and strain** arising whenever what you want conflicts with what you do. 2 This **conflicting** situation of **what you want conflicting with what you do not** arises in two ways: First, you can choose to do conflicting things, either simultaneously or successively. 3 This produces conflicted behavior, which is intolerable to you because the part of the mind that wants to do something else is outraged. 4 Second, you can behave as you think you should, but without entirely wanting to do so. p29 5 This produces consistent behavior, but entails great strain. 6 In both cases, the mind and the behavior are out of accord **and this conflicting mind /behavior pattern**, resulting in a situation in which you are doing what you do not wholly want to do. 7 **Out of this conflicting thought/behavior pattern of doing what you do not wholly want to do**, arouses a sense of coercion that usually produces rage, and projection is likely to follow. 8 Whenever there is fear, it is because you have not made up your mind. 9 Your mind is therefore split, and your behavior inevitably becomes erratic. 10 Correcting at the behavioral level can shift the error from the first type of conflicting situations, to the second type, but will not obliterate the fear.

**Note # 44:** When our thoughts align with the thought system of the ego, we are in conflict with our true nature, which is our Christ conscious Self or Big "S" Self's goals and desire. This internal conflict births fear. Our Big "S" Self knows that we are unlimited,

invulnerable spirit or mind. As such, we are only extension of God's Love. When we have fearful thoughts, these are by definition unloving thoughts. This results in a conflict within our mind that now appears to be split into two separate parts. One part represents our egoic thinking; the other, the thought system of the Holy Spirit. Fear and conflict dissipate when we align with the Holy Spirit. Our feelings are the indicator of our alignment to our true Big "S" Self's nature. Bad feelings indicate that we are out of alignment and moving into fear. Good feelings indicate that we are moving into proper alignment with love.

**T-2.VI.6.** It is possible to reach a state in which you bring your mind under my guidance without conscious effort, but this implies a willingness that you have not developed as yet. 2 The Holy Spirit cannot ask more than you are willing to do. 3 The strength to do comes from your undivided decision. 4 There is no strain in doing God's Will as soon as you recognize that **God's Will** is also your own. 5 The lesson here is quite simple, but particularly apt to be overlooked. 6 I will therefore repeat **this lesson**, urging you to listen. 7 Only your mind can produce fear. 8 **The mind produces fear** whenever **the mind** is conflicted in what the mind wants. **This conflict between what the mind wants produces** inevitable strain because wanting and doing are discordant. 9 This **conflict between wanting and doing** can be corrected only by accepting a unified goal.

**Note # 45:** Being an extension of God, our true will must equate with God's Will. God's Will is that we be happy. Being love, we cannot be happy by thinking fearful or unloving thoughts. We can only be happy when we align our current experience with forgiving and loving thoughts. Our feelings are our inner guidance system's gauge that allows our mind to know in current time how well our current thoughts and actions are aligning with our Big "S" Self's will, which is also God's Will. Bad feelings indicate that we are out of alignment and moving into fear. Good feelings indicate that we are moving into proper alignment with love.

**T-2.VI.7.** The first corrective step in undoing the error of **conflict between wanting and doing** is to know first that the conflict is an expression of fear. 2 Say to yourself that you must somehow have chosen not to love, or the fear could not have arisen. 3 Then the whole process of correction becomes nothing more than a series of pragmatic steps in the larger process of accepting the Atonement as the remedy. 4 These steps may be summarized in this way:  
5 Know first that **conflict** is fear.  
6 Fear arises from lack of love.  
7 The only remedy for lack of love is perfect love.  
8 Perfect love is the Atonement.

**Note # 46:** The choice is always between love and fear. If we have lost our inner peace, we are coming from fear. We have raised body thoughts to the level of mind. We have made the illusionary dream of the fragmentation our Oneness appear real. It is our belief in separation that leads to the making of conflict and fear.

**T-2.VI.8.** I have emphasized that the miracle, or the expression of Atonement, is always a sign of respect *<from>* the worthy *<to>* the worthy. 2 The recognition of this worth is re-established by the Atonement. 3 It is obvious, then, that when you are afraid, you have placed yourself in a position where you need Atonement. 4 You have done

something loveless, having chosen without love. 5 This **having chosen without love** is precisely the situation for which the Atonement was offered. 6 The need for the remedy to **having chosen without love** inspired **the remedy's** establishment, **which is the Atonement**. 7 As long as you recognize only the need for the remedy, you will remain fearful. p30 8 However, as soon as you accept the remedy, you have abolished the fear **of having chosen without love with the remedy, which is the Atonement**. 9 **Accepting the Atonement for one self** is how true healing occurs.

**Note # 47:** By accepting the Atonement for ourselves, we accept the truth that we, as God's Creations, must remain guiltless and sinless like our Source. We realize that an illusion, which is an unloving thought, is a mistaken belief that can have no impact on the Mind of God. We remain as God created us, perfect, whole and complete. We recognize both our brother and our own worthiness to be love and loved.

**T-2.VI.9.** Everyone experiences fear. 2 Yet it would take very little right thinking to realize why fear occurs. 3 Few appreciate the real power of the mind, and no one remains fully aware **of the real power of the mind** all the time. 4 However, if you hope to spare yourself from fear there are some things you must realize, and realize fully. 5 The mind is very powerful, and **the mind** never loses **the mind's** creative force. 6 **The mind** never sleeps. 7 Every instant **the mind** is creating. 8 It is hard to recognize that thought and belief combine into a power surge that can literally move mountains. 9 It appears at first glance that to believe such power about yourself **as your minds ability to move mountains** is arrogant, but that is not the real reason you do not believe **your mind can do this**. 10 You prefer to believe that your thoughts cannot exert real influence because you are actually afraid of your **thoughts**. 11 This belief **that your thoughts cannot exert real influence and are thus, not causative** may allay awareness of the guilt, but this **allaying the awareness of guilt comes** at the cost of perceiving the mind as impotent. 12 If you believe that what you think is ineffectual you may cease to be afraid of **what you think**, but you are hardly likely to respect **what you think**. 13 There *<are>* no idle thoughts. 14 All thinking produces form at some level.

**Note # 48:** Thoughts become things. We are constantly creating our own experiences by what we are thinking. The only question is, "Are you creating deliberately or by default." When we claim that we are powerless to affect our experience, we are creating by default. This denial of our own creative powers results in a state of victim consciousness. We believe that we are the innocent victims of some known or unknown force, but we are sure we are not the cause of our plight. Since our thoughts determine our experiences, it becomes a question of what we will choose to create. Loving thoughts create. They are inclusive and unite. They are real. Fear-based thoughts make or miscreate and they exclude, separate and limit. Fear-based thoughts are at the level of bodily illusion and are not real. Miscreation is not part of the Mind of God. We either create or make depending on the thought system we choose to follow. But in either case, we are the decision-makers. There are no accidents. Our thoughts cause our "provisional reality" that we perceive as real.

## **VII. Cause and Effect**

**T-2.VII.1.** You may still complain about fear, but you nevertheless persist in making yourself fearful. 2 I have already indicated that you cannot ask me to release you from fear.

3 I know **fear** does not exist, but you do not **know fear does not exist**. 4 If I intervened between your thoughts and their results, I would be tampering with a basic law of cause and effect; **which is** the most fundamental law there is. 5 I would hardly help you if I depreciated the power of your own thinking. 6 This would be in direct opposition to the purpose of this course **which is for you to reclaim and remember who you really are, which is God's Son**. 7 It is much more helpful to remind you that you do not guard your thoughts carefully enough. 8 You may feel that at this point it would take a miracle to enable you **to guard your thoughts carefully enough**, which is perfectly true. 9 You are not used to miracle-minded thinking, but you can be trained to think that way. 10 All miracle workers need that kind of training **in miracle minded thinking**.

**Note # 49:** Fear is not part of the Mind of God and, therefore, is not real. Fear does appear very real within the deluded mind of the dreamer who claims to not know what his divine birthright is. We were created to be a creator just like our Source. The basic law of the universe is that cause must have its effect and that like begets like. When we choose to pretend we are something we are not, we miscreate a similar thought projection of this same deluded mental state. Thus, believing we are in a state of lack, we place limitations on what we make. Since we are the source of our own fear, we must look within ourselves if we are to correct the source of this fear, which is our own split mind belief in separation.

**T-2.VII.2.** I cannot let you leave your mind unguarded, or you will not be able to help me. 2 Miracle working entails a full realization of the power of thought in order to avoid miscreation. 3 **You must realize the full power of thought in order to avoid miscreation or else** a miracle will be necessary to set the mind itself straight, a circular process that would not foster the time collapse for which the miracle was intended. p31 4 The miracle worker must have genuine respect for true cause and effect as a necessary condition for the miracle to occur.

**Note # 50:** The miracle worker must respect the creative power of the mind and realize that his thinking determined his perception. By changing your thinking from the thought system of the ego to the Holy Spirit, you change your perceived results. You go from misperception to correct perception.

**T-2.VII.3.** Both miracles and fear come from thoughts. 2 If you are not free to choose **either miracles or fear**, you would also not be free to choose the other. 3 By choosing the miracle you *<have>* rejected fear, if only temporarily. 4 You have been fearful of everyone and everything. 5 You are afraid of God, of me and of yourself. 6 You have misperceived or miscreated Us (**God, me and yourself**), and believe in what you have made **through your misperception**. 7 You would not have done this **miscreating of God, me and yourself** if you were not afraid of your own thoughts. 8 The fearful *<must>* miscreate, because **the fearful** misperceive creation. 9 When you miscreate you are in pain. 10 The cause and effect principle now becomes a real expeditor, though only temporarily. 11 Actually, "Cause" is a term properly belonging to God, and His "Effect" is His Son. 12 This entails a set of Cause and Effect relationships totally different from those you introduce into miscreation. 13 The fundamental conflict in this world, then, is between creation and miscreation. 14 All fear is implicit in the second, **miscreation**, and all love in the first, creation. 15 The conflict is therefore one between love and fear.

**Note # 51:** Free will allows us to act as our own decision-maker. In the world of perception, we have only two choices, love or fear. Each is represented by a different thought system and each choice is also a choice for the true or the false. In our deluded state of claiming we are other than what God created, we have lost knowledge. Perception was born out of the insane belief that there is something other than God's Will; that the Oneness had been shattered into separate parts that are now different than the whole. This is the Sonship's misperception of what creation is. Within the split-minded Sonship, the separation was real and now there is an observer and something to observe. Rather than the truth that there is just a Oneness of everything, there is now something to fear. When we think fearful thoughts, we miscreate. Miscreation results in conflict and more fear.

God is the Cause and we are the Effect. The Sonship is all that God created as He created it and is the Effect of God. An effect cannot change its cause. For the child to be able to change its cause would be to change its parentage. This is impossible. Source always comes first and is changeless. The Sonship cannot change God, the Father.

**T-2.VII.4.** It has already been said that you believe you cannot control fear because you yourself made **fear**, and your belief in **fear** seems to render **fear** out of your control. 2 Yet any attempt to resolve the error of **your belief in fear**, through attempting the mastery of fear is useless. 3 In fact, it asserts the power of fear by the very assumption that **fear** need be mastered. 4 The true resolution of **fear** rests entirely on mastery of **fear** through love. 5 In the interim, however, the sense of conflict is inevitable, since you have placed yourself in a position where you believe in the power of what does not exist **which is fear**.

**Note # 52:** Fear is not real in the Mind of God. It is something that we have made up within our egoic thought system. Only love is real since love is all that exists. In our illusionary state of separation, we believe that both love and fear exist. When fear is brought in front of love's light, fear disappears. When we oppose fear and attempt to resist it, we make it real. If something exists only in the mind of the dreamer, we need only to awaken the dreamer and the dream dissipates. To do battle against an imaginary enemy is to make the enemy appear real. Fear's only power is the power we choose to give it.

**T-2.VII.5.** Nothing and everything cannot coexist. 2 To believe in one is to deny the other. 3 Fear is really nothing and love is everything. 4 Whenever light enters darkness, the darkness is abolished. 5 What you believe is true for you. 6 In this sense, **because you believe in the separation**, the separation *<has>* occurred, and to deny **that the separation has occurred to you** is merely to use denial inappropriately. 7 However, to concentrate on error is only a further error. 8 The initial corrective procedure is to recognize temporarily that there is a problem, but only as an indication that immediate correction is needed. 9 This establishes a state of mind in which the Atonement can be accepted without delay. 10 It should be emphasized, however, that ultimately no compromise is possible between everything and nothing. 11 Time is essentially a device by which all compromise **between everything and nothing** can be given up p32. 12 **Compromise between everything and nothing** only seems to be abolished by degrees, because time itself involves intervals that do not exist. 13 Miscreation made this **compromise** necessary as a corrective device. 14 The statement "For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish but have everlasting life" needs only one slight correction to be meaningful in this context; "He gave it, **everlasting life**, *<to>* His only begotten Son."

**Note # 53:** God is everything. Therefore, when God extended Himself, He created or gave His creations everything. He created His Son in His image, which is perfect Love. God's Son is everything God created. What God created can have no opposite for extension is merely the expansion of the Oneness of "All That Is". God is everything and there is nothing outside or apart from this Oneness. Within the illusion of separation, we believe that there can be opposites. We believe that our decision-maker has a choice between separation and oneness, fear and love. Time is the device that allows us to change our belief from the false to the true. As long as we perceive that the choice for the false is possible, time will be needed. Time is only truth oriented in its direction. Whatever moment you find yourself to be in, it is exactly where you need to be. The Holy Spirit uses time and the miracle to bring us back to right-mindedness as quickly as possible.

**T-2.VII.6.** It should especially be noted that God has only <one> Son. 2 If all His creations are His Sons, every one must be an integral part of the whole Sonship. 3 The Sonship in its Oneness transcends the sum of **the Sonship's** parts. 4 However, this **Oneness** is obscured as long as any of its parts is missing. 5 That is why the conflict, **our belief in the separation**, cannot ultimately be resolved until all the parts of the Sonship have returned **to Oneness**. 6 Only then can the meaning of wholeness in the true sense be understood. 7 Any part of the Sonship can believe in error or incompleteness if he so chooses. 8 However, if he does **chose to believe in incompleteness**, he is believing in the existence of nothingness. 9 The correction of this error **of the belief in incompleteness or nothingness** is the Atonement.

**Note # 54:** The Sonship is everything God created as God created it. The Sonship cannot be separated into indivisible parts, as it is holographic in nature. Even in its vain attempt to shatter the wholeness, the Sonship remains a Oneness of The Mind of God.

**T-2.VII.7.** I have already briefly spoken about readiness, but some additional points might be helpful here. 2 Readiness is only the prerequisite for accomplishment. 3 The two, **readiness and accomplishment**, should not be confused. 4 As soon as a state of readiness occurs, there is usually some degree of desire to accomplish, but **the desire to accomplish** is by no means necessarily undivided. 5 The state **of readiness** does not imply more than a potential for a change of mind. 6 Confidence cannot develop fully until mastery has been accomplished. 7 We have already attempted to correct the fundamental error that fear can be mastered, and have emphasized that the only real mastery is through love. 8 Readiness is only the beginning of confidence. 9 You may think this implies that an enormous amount of time is necessary between readiness and mastery, but let me remind you that time and space are under my control.

**Note # 55:** As we turn more of our thinking over to the thought system of the Holy Spirit, our confidence will grow in its ability to produce our desired goal of forgiveness and love, which leads to our inner-peace. Eventually we will decide to totally abandon the thought system of the ego and side only with the Holy Spirit's. Love will replace fear and mastery will be accomplished.



## VIII. The Meaning of the Last Judgment

**T-2.VIII.1.** One of the ways in which you can correct the magic-miracle confusion is to remember that you did not create yourself, **God did.** 2 You are apt to forget this when you become egocentric, and **your belief that you created yourself** puts you in a position where a belief in magic is virtually inevitable. p33 3 Your will to create was given you by your Creator, Who was expressing the same Will in His creation. 4 Since creative ability rests in the mind, everything you create is necessarily a matter of will. 5 It also follows that whatever you alone make is real in your own sight, though not in the Mind of God. 6 This basic distinction **that whatever you alone make is real in your own sight, though not in the Mind of God,** leads directly into the real meaning of the Last Judgment.

**Note # 56:** When you believe in separation, whatever you make is “real” only to you in your own limited egoic mind or sight but it is not real in the Mind of God. What you miscreate is only an erroneous thought projection based on your mind’s belief in fear and lack. This is what is referred to as provisional reality. Provisional reality is momentarily “true” for you because you believe it is. Provisional reality is what your mind has projected into your own “dream world”. Provisional reality exists only in the mind of the one projecting it. Because provisional reality is subject to change, it is not permanent and, therefore, not eternal or real. Creation is an extension, which is based on inclusion and true love. True love gives everything because it is everything. This is how God and His right-minded Son create. These creations are real in the mind of God because they are extensions of what is perfect, eternal and thus, changeless. God is love and thus, to co-create with God requires that we also must come from loving thoughts.

**T-2.VIII.2.** The Last Judgment is one of the most threatening ideas in your thinking. 2 This is because you do not understand **the meaning of the Last Judgment.** 3 Judgment is not an attribute of God. 4 **Judgment** was brought into being only after the separation, when **judgment** became one of the many learning devices to be built into the overall plan. 5 Just as the separation occurred over millions of years, the Last Judgment will extend over a similarly long period, and perhaps an even longer one. 6 **The Last Judgment’s** length can, however, be greatly shortened by miracles, which is the device for shortening **time** but not abolishing time. 7 If a sufficient number become truly miracle-minded, this shortening process can be virtually immeasurable. 8 It is essential, however, that you free yourself from fear quickly, because you must emerge from the conflict **of fear,** if you are to bring peace to other minds.

**Note # 57:** God does not judge since a Oneness of Everything has nothing outside itself to judge. It is only the egoic mind that perceives separation that judges. As long as one remnant of egoic thinking remains, time will be needed. We, not God, are the ones who have chosen to judge. When the Sonship stops judging and accepts the Atonement for itself, its last judgment will be at hand.

**T-2.VIII.3.** The Last Judgment is generally thought of as a procedure undertaken by God. 2 Actually, **the Last Judgment** will be undertaken by my brothers with my help. 3 **The Last Judgment** is a final healing rather than a meting out of punishment, however much you may think that punishment is deserved. 4 Punishment is a concept totally opposed to right-mindedness, and the aim of the Last Judgment is to restore right-mindedness to you. 5 The Last Judgment might be called a process of right evaluation. 6

**This process of right evaluation, which is the Last Judgment**, simply means that everyone will finally come to understand what is worthy and what is not **worthy**. 7 **After right evaluation is achieved**, the ability to choose can be directed rationally. 8 Until this distinction is made **between what is worthy and what is not worthy**, however, the vacillations between free and imprisoned will cannot but continue.

**Note # 58:** Currently we value our belief in separation. We have judged the dream to be more desirable than the truth. Right evaluation will determine that only truth or love is worthy. The false will be cast aside as unworthy.

**T-2.VIII.4.** The first step toward freedom involves a sorting out of the false from the true. 2 This is a process of separation in the constructive sense, and reflects the true meaning of the Apocalypse. 3 Everyone will ultimately look upon his own creations and choose to preserve only what is good, just as God Himself looked upon what He had created and knew that **what He created** was good. 4 At this point, the mind can begin to look with love on its own creations because of their worthiness. 5 At the same time the mind will inevitably disown its miscreations which, without belief, **which originally came from in the mind's creative power to be causes, its miscreation** will no longer exist. p34

**Note # 59:** It is our continuing belief that we are separate and have miscreated that results in our provisional reality remaining constantly warped. Without the creative power of our mind to continually project and make its own "dream world," our own provisional reality would disappear. When we realize our true nature, our mind will continue to support only the creations that extend and reflect the truth that God's Son is only unlimited love.

**T-2.VIII.5.** The term "Last Judgment" is frightening not only because **the ego's trait of judgment** has been projected onto God, but also because of the association of "last" with death. 2 This is an outstanding example of upside-down perception. 3 If the meaning of the Last Judgment is objectively examined, it is quite apparent that **the Last Judgment** is really the doorway to life. 4 No one who lives in fear is really alive. 5 Your own last judgment cannot be directed toward yourself, because you are not your own creation. 6 You can, however, apply **judgment** meaningfully and at any time to everything you have made, and retain in your memory only what is creative and good. 7 **Retaining in your memory only what is creative and good** is what your right-mindedness cannot but dictate. 8 The purpose of time is solely to "give you time" to achieve this judgment. 9 **The Last Judgment** is your own perfect judgment of your own perfect creations. 10 When everything you retain is lovable, there is no reason for fear to remain with you. 11 This **removal of all your fears** is your part in the Atonement. p35

**Note # 60:** When fear, which is all the obstacles that we have placed before love is removed, only love remains. The last judgment is the acceptance of the truth that only love is real and we are that love. Love is life and only love remains. Before this judgment, we believed that we could will ourselves to be something other than the extension of the Mind of God. The Sonship is now ready to exchange his misperception for correct perception or right-mindedness. God, the Father, will then return His Child to knowledge. We will know that we were, are and always will be the Oneness of Everything, perfect, whole and complete.

