

## Chapter 3.

### THE INNOCENT PERCEPTION

#### I. Atonement without Sacrifice

**T-3.I.1.** A further point must be perfectly clear before any residual fear still associated with miracles can disappear. 2 The crucifixion did not establish the Atonement; the resurrection did. 3 Many sincere Christians have misunderstood this **and believe the crucifixion, not the resurrection, established the Atonement** 4 No one who is free of the belief in scarcity could possibly make this mistake. 5 If the crucifixion is seen from an upside-down point of view, **the crucifixion** does appear as if God permitted and even encouraged one of His Sons to suffer because he was good. 6 This particularly unfortunate interpretation **that God would let one of His Sons suffer because he was good**, which arose out of projection, has led many people to be bitterly afraid of God. 7 Such anti-religious concepts enter into many religions. 8 Yet the real Christian should pause and ask, "How could this be?" 9 Is it likely that God Himself would be capable of the kind of thinking which His Own words have clearly stated is unworthy of His Son?

**Note # 1:** Jesus dismisses the Christian fundamentalist's concept of the crucifixion as totally illogical. Jesus said that the resurrection established the Atonement. It is the resurrection that proved that we are not a body; instead we are eternal unlimited spirit.

**T-3.I.2.** The best defense, as always, is not to attack another's position, but rather to protect the truth. 2 It is unwise to accept any concept if you have to invert a whole frame of reference in order to justify the concept. 3 This procedure **having to invert a whole frame of reference** is painful in its minor applications and genuinely tragic on a wider scale. 4 Persecution frequently results in an attempt to "justify" the terrible misperception that God Himself persecuted His Own Son on behalf of salvation. 5 The very words are meaningless. 6 It has been particularly difficult to overcome this misperception **that God would persecute His Own Son on behalf of salvation**, because, although the error itself is no harder to correct than any other **error**, many have been unwilling to give this error up in view of **this error's** prominent value as a defense. 7 In milder forms **this type of error** allows a parent says, "This hurts me more than it hurts you," and feels exonerated in beating a child. 8 Can you believe our Father really thinks this way **that our Father would persecute His Own Son on behalf of salvation?** 9 It is so essential that all such thinking be dispelled that we must be sure that nothing of this kind of **upside down thinking** remains in your mind. 10 I was not "punished" because *<you>* were bad. 11 The wholly benign lesson the Atonement teaches is lost if **the Atonement** is tainted with this kind of **distorted thinking that God could persecute His Own Son** in any form.

**Note # 2:** Love allows. It is unconditional. It does not make demands that are punishable if we fail to obey. The idea that God would punish an innocent victim, His only Son, in place of the wrongdoer is even more insane. Insanity disguised as love is truly tragic. Our western, traditional religious view of a judgmental, vindicate and petty god does not make any sense. This is even more illogical, when Christian fundamentalists proclaim this type of god as a god of love.

**T-3.I.3.** The statement "Vengeance is mine, saith the Lord" is a misperception by which one assigns his own "evil" past to God. p36 2 The "evil" past has nothing to do with God. 3 **God** did not create **your own "evil" thinking**, and **God** does not maintain **your**

**“evil” thinking.** 4 God does not believe in retribution. 5 **God’s Mind** does not create that way. 6 **God** does not hold your "evil" deeds against you. 7 Is it likely that **God** would hold your **“evil” deeds** against me? 8 Be very sure that you recognize how utterly impossible this assumption is, and how entirely this assumption **that God would punish me, Jesus, for your “evil” deeds,** arises from projection. 9 This kind of error is responsible for a host of related errors, including the belief that God rejected Adam and forced him out of the Garden of Eden. 10 **This kind of error, that God rejected His Child and forced him out of Heaven,** is also why you may believe from time to time that I am misdirecting you. 11 I have made every effort to use words that are almost impossible to distort, but it is always possible to twist symbols around if you wish.

**Note # 3:** Projection is the action or thought of blaming or punishing someone else for your deeds. In the egoic error of projection, we attempt to transfer and attribute our actions to something or someone outside ourselves. Rather than recognize that the “error” comes from our own thinking and thus, needs to be corrected within our mind, we seek to ignore our own sourcedness for the error and focus our attention somewhere else. We fail to take ownership and responsibility for our own creations. We claim to be powerless to correct our erroneous thoughts since by our own projection and denial, the error now appears to come from somewhere outside ourselves. We then claim that if the error is from an outside cause or source, we are powerless to correct the error. God knows His creations are extensions of Himself. Being a Oneness how could there be anyone to judge or punish?

**T-3.I.4.** Sacrifice is a notion totally unknown to God. 2 **Sacrifice** arises solely from fear, and frightened people can be vicious. 3 Sacrificing in any way is a violation of my injunction that you should be merciful even as your Father in Heaven is merciful. 4 It has been hard for many Christians to realize that this **prohibition on sacrifice** applies to themselves **as Christians.** 5 Good teachers never terrorize their students. 6 To terrorize is to attack, and this **attacking by teachers of their students,** results in rejection of what the teacher offers. 7 The result is learning failure.

**Note # 4:** What can be sacrificed if there is no lack? Sin and hell are a foreign concept to a Oneness of Everything. Who could the Oneness sin against? The belief in guilt, sin and hell are needed and very useful only if you wish to control another. These concepts of sin, guilt and hell form the bedrock for the fear based egoic thought system. \_

**T-3.I.5.** I have been correctly referred to as "the lamb of God who taketh away the sins of the world," but those who represent the lamb as blood-stained do not understand the meaning of the symbol. 2 Correctly understood **this symbol of the “lamb of God”** is a very simple symbol that speaks of my innocence. 3 The lion and the lamb lying down together symbolize that strength and innocence are not in conflict, but naturally live in peace. 4 "Blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see God" is another way of saying the same thing. 5 A pure mind knows the truth and this is **a pure mind’s** strength. 6 **A pure mind** does not confuse destruction with innocence because **a pure mind** associates innocence with strength, not **innocence** with weakness.

**Note # 5:** When you know your strength comes from God, Herself, you know that you are invulnerable. True strength requires neither defenses nor weapons for attack. When you believe that you are a limited ego-body, attack and defense are synonymous.

**T-3.I.6.** Innocence is incapable of sacrificing anything, because the innocent mind has everything and strives only to protect **the innocent mind's** wholeness. 2 **The innocent mind** cannot project. 3 **The innocent mind** can only honor other minds, because honor is the natural greeting of the truly loved to others who are like them. 4 The lamb "taketh away the sins of the world" in the sense that the state of innocence, or grace, is one in which the meaning of the Atonement is perfectly apparent. 5 The Atonement is entirely unambiguous. 6 The Atonement is perfectly clear because **the Atonement** exists in light of truth. 7 Only the attempts to shroud **the Atonement** in darkness have made **the Atonement** inaccessible to those who do not choose to see. p37

**Note # 6:** The Atonement is the acceptance of the truth about God's Son. Truth abolishes all illusions and errors in thinking. You and your brothers and sisters are innocent, sinless and guiltless. The Sonship remains God's perfect extension of only Herself, which is only Love.

**T-3.I.7.** The Atonement itself radiates nothing but truth. 2 **The Atonement** therefore epitomizes harmlessness and sheds only blessing. 3 **The Atonement** could not do this if **the Atonement** arose from anything but perfect innocence. 4 Innocence is wisdom because **innocence** is unaware of evil, and evil does not exist. 5 **Innocence** is, however, perfectly aware of everything that is true. 6 The resurrection demonstrated that nothing can destroy truth. 7 Good can withstand any form of evil, as light abolishes forms of darkness. 8 The Atonement is therefore the perfect lesson. 9 **The Atonement** is the final demonstration that all the other lessons I taught are true. 10 If you can accept this one generalization now **that the Atonement is the final demonstration that all the other lessons I taught are true**, there will be no need to learn from many smaller lessons. 11 You are released from all errors if you believe this **lesson of accepting the Atonement for yourself**.

**Note # 7:** Salvation is just one decision away. All will freely choose for the Atonement. It is just a matter of time. Do you wish to baby-step your way to recovery of your divine birthright or achieve it in one giant leap? Our free will determines the timing of when we decide to accept the Atonement for ourselves.

**T-3.I.8.** The innocence of God is the true state of the mind of His Son. 2 In this **innocence** state your mind knows God, for God is not symbolic; He is Fact. 3 **By you** knowing His Son as he is, you realize that the Atonement, not sacrifice, is the only appropriate gift for God's altar, where nothing except perfection belongs. 4 The understanding of the innocent is truth. 5 That is why **the altars of the innocent** are truly radiant.

**Note # 8:** God's Mind is changeless. God's Plan is that His Creations be happy. As such, God created you eternally perfect, whole and complete. What part of God's Plan is so difficult to accept? Why would you wish to follow your ego's plan, which claims you are a guilty sinner in need of punishment? Would a sane mind freely choose to be limited and fearful when God's Plan offers that same mind everything without any pain or sacrifice? God's Plan offers total freedom and love. The ego's plan offers limitation, fear, enslavement and then finally death.

"Hum... Let me think about that for a while. Is it such a hard choice?"

## II. Miracles as True Perception

**T-3.II.1.** I have stated that the basic concepts referred to in this course are not matters of degree. 2 Certain fundamental concepts cannot be understood in terms of opposites. 3 It is impossible to conceive of light and darkness or everything and nothing as joint possibilities. 4 They are all true or all false. 5 It is essential that you realize your thinking will be erratic until a firm commitment to one (**light versus darkness or spirit versus ego-body**) or the other is made. 6 A firm commitment to darkness or nothingness, however, is impossible. 7 No one has ever lived who has not experienced <some> light and <some> thing. 8 No one, therefore, is able to deny truth totally, even if he thinks he can **deny truth totally**.

**Note # 9:** ACIM is black and white. What is not changeless is not real. Something is either true or false. The false has no reality and thus, is the belief in nothing. For ACIM's purpose, something is not sometimes true and sometimes false. There is no gray. The choice for love is real and fear cannot exist except as an illusion in a deluded mind. Truth and love are our Source or Cause. Effect cannot be separate from its cause. It is impossible to totally restrict or deny our connectiveness to Source Energy or First Cause, which is the Mind of God. Even if on the egoic level you believed and claimed that you were totally disconnected to God, your Christ consciousness or Holy Spirit would maintain the connection. It is against God's Will that you be separate from the His Oneness.

**T-3.II.2.** Innocence is not a partial attribute. 2 **Innocence** is not real <until> **innocence** is total. 3 The partly innocent are apt to be quite foolish at times. 4 It is not until their innocence becomes a viewpoint with universal application that **innocence** becomes wisdom. 5 Innocent or true perception means that you never misperceive and always see truly. 6 More simply, **innocence or true perception** means that you never see what does not exist, and always see what does.

**Note # 10:** Innocence means that you always follow the thought system of the Holy Spirit. In the egoic dream state of separation, only the Holy Spirit knows the truth about your oneness and is also aware of your dream experience that you call limitation and separation. By understanding both, the Holy Spirit is in the unique position to be able to translate our misperception into correct perception.

**T-3.II.3.** When you lack confidence in what someone will do, you are attesting to your belief that he is not in his right mind. 2 This **lack confidence in what someone will do** is hardly a miracle-based frame of reference. p38 3 **Attesting to your belief that an individual is not in his right mind**, also has the disastrous effect of denying the power of the miracle. 4 The miracle perceives everything as it **truly** is. 5 If nothing but the truth exists, right-minded seeing cannot see anything but perfection. 6 I have said that only what God creates or what you create with the same Will has any real existence. 7 This, then (**only what is created in God's image**) is all the innocent can see. 8 **The innocent** do not suffer from distorted perception.

**Note # 11:** The innocent only perceive the truth. They look past the body to the spiritual essence of all they perceive. They "look" only through the eyes of love. Even when a brother appears to be acting out his desire to experience fear or lack, the innocent realize

that each one's own thoughts make their experience. They understand the sourcedness of each brother's perception and the freedom this entails.

**T-3.II.4.** You are afraid of God's Will because you have used your own mind, which **God** created in the likeness of His Own **Will**, to miscreate. 2 The mind can miscreate only when **the mind** believes **the mind** is not free. 3 An "imprisoned" mind is not free because **the "imprisoned mind"** is possessed, or held back, by itself. 4 **The "imprisoned mind"** is therefore limited, and the will of **the "imprisoned mind"** is not free to assert itself. 5 To be one is to be of one mind or will. 6 When the Will of the Sonship and the Father are One, their perfect accord is Heaven.

**Note # 12:** A mind that believes it is something other than perfect, whole and complete limits itself. Believing it is limited, the egoic mind passes on this same false concept whenever it attempts to create. This results in projection, which is miscreation. Creation only extends its true Big "S" Self. An attempt to beget something other than your Big "S" Self is impossible. The belief in "littleness" is the denial of the truth and can only appear real in an illusionary state of make-believe. Only the fearful would choose limitation over freedom.

**T-3.II.5.** Nothing can prevail against a Son of God who commends his spirit into the Hands of his Father. 2 **By a Son of God commending his spirit into the Hands of His Father**, the mind awakens from its sleep and **the mind of the Son** remembers its Creator. 3 All sense of separation disappears. 4 The Son of God is part of the Holy Trinity, but the Trinity Itself is One. 5 There is no confusion within Its Levels, because They are of one Mind and one Will. 6 This single purpose creates perfect integration and establishes the peace of God. 7 Yet this vision of **perfect integration that establishes the peace of God** can be perceived only by the truly innocent. 8 Because **the truly innocent's** hearts are pure, the **truly innocent** defend true perception instead of defending themselves against **true perception**. 9 Understanding the lesson of the Atonement, **the truly innocent**, are without the wish to attack, and therefore the **innocent** see truly. 10 This is what the Bible means when it says, "When he shall appear (or be perceived) we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is."

**Note # 13:** Due to our belief that duality exists, ACIM must use language to describe what we perceive. ACIM speaks as if there is a separation within the Trinity because that is how our dualistic mind perceives it. In truth, there is just the One Self. There is no difference between God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. They are the one indivisible "All That Is". The Mind of God is holographic. Each inseparable part contains the whole and the whole contains each part. There is no difference.

**T-3.II.6.** The way to correct distortions is to withdraw your faith in **distortions** and invest **your faith** only in what is true. 2 You cannot make untruth true. 3 If you are willing to accept what is true in everything you perceive, you let **what is true** be true for you. 4 Truth overcomes all error, and those who live in error and emptiness can never find lasting solace. 5 If you perceive truly you are cancelling out misperceptions in yourself and **misperceptions** in others simultaneously. 6 Because you see **others** as they **truly** are, a **spiritual being that is part of the Sonship**, you offer them your acceptance of their truth

so they can accept **the true** for themselves. 7 This **acceptance of the truth for themselves** is the healing that the miracle induces. p39

**Note # 14:** The truth is not someone's misperceptions about himself or herself as a limited ego-body. It is not the "truth" of the egoic misperception, but rather the truth of the Holy Spirit's correct perception that "sees" the eternal spiritual nature in all that is. When you follow the thought system of the Holy Spirit, you offer your brother the truth about what he truly is. You let him see his Big "S" Self. You allow him to "see" himself as a Son of God, perfect, whole and complete. He sees himself as sinless and guiltless like His Source. This is the healing the miracle induces.

### **III. Perception versus Knowledge**

**T-3.III.1.** We have been emphasizing perception, and have said very little about knowledge as yet. 2 This is because perception must be straightened out before you can know anything. 3 To know is to be certain. 4 Uncertainty means that you do not know. 5 Knowledge is power because **knowledge** is certain, and certainty is strength. 6 Perception is temporary. 7 As an attribute of the belief in space and time, **perception** is subject to either fear or love. 8 Misperceptions produce fear and true perceptions foster love, but neither brings certainty because all perception varies. 9 That is why **perception** is not knowledge. 10 True perception is the basis for knowledge, but knowing is the affirmation of truth and beyond all perceptions.

**Note # 15:** Knowledge like truth never changes. For ACIM's purposes, knowledge is the truth and not a generally accepted belief. For example, although past human "so called knowledge" would include the "fact" that the earth was the center of the universe, this could not be knowledge since it was not true. Certainty without truth is not knowledge. Perception changes as your viewpoint shifts. It differs from person to person based on their unique past beliefs and experiences. Perception is based on what you choose to put your awareness upon. The two thought systems produce radically different perceptions although the "external happening" or experience is theoretically the same. The ego's perception is fearful while the Holy Spirit's is loving.

**T-3.III.2.** All your difficulties stem from the fact that you do not recognize yourself, your brother or God. 2 To recognize means to "know again," implying that you knew before. 3 You can see in many ways because perception involves interpretation, and this means that **perception** is not whole or consistent. 4 The miracle, being a way of perceiving, is not knowledge. 5 **The miracle** is the right answer to a question, but you do not question when you know. 6 Questioning illusions is the first step in undoing **illusions**. 7 The miracle, or the right answer, corrects **illusions**. 8 Since perceptions change, **perceptions'** dependence on time is obvious. 9 How you perceive at any given time determines what you do, and actions must occur in time. 10 Knowledge is timeless, because certainty is not questionable. 11 You know when you have ceased to ask questions.

**Note # 16:** We must first question the logic of the egoic thought system before we will decide that there must be another way to interpret the experience. Our difficulty arose when we chose to believe that we did not know what we are. The egoic thought system's goal is to keep us from remembering that we are a Oneness of "All That Is." The Holy Spirit's goal is to return us to the remembrance that we are "That One".

**T-3.III.3.** The questioning mind perceives itself in time, and therefore, **the questioning** mind looks for future answers **in time**. 2 The closed mind believes the future and the present will be the same. 3 **The closed mind's belief that the future and the present will be the same** establishes a seemingly stable state that is usually an attempt to counteract an underlying fear that the future will be worse than the present. 4 This fear **that the future will be worse than the present** inhibits the tendency to question at all.

**Note # 17:** Since perceptions change and time is the measure of change, the world of perception is also the world of time. Change is often frightening and, therefore, they who are closed minded attempt to control their fear by limiting the amount of change they are willing to experience. Coming from fear, the universe is viewed as an unsupportive place that is ruled by lack and competition. To the ego, life is a "zero sum game". If I am to win, someone must lose. Conflict and competition is the norm and thus, the ego's belief system projects, makes and then perceives a fearful world.

**T-3.III.4.** True vision is the natural perception of spiritual sight, but **true vision** is still a correction rather than a fact. 2 Spiritual sight is symbolic, and therefore not a device for knowing. 3 **Spiritual sight** is, however, a means of right perception, which brings **spiritual sight** into the proper domain of the miracle. 4 A "vision of God" would be a miracle rather than a revelation. 5 The fact that perception is involved at all removes the experience from the realm of knowledge **since perception always involves interpretation, which means that perception is not consistent**. 6 That is why visions, however holy, do not last.

**Note # 18:** Perception involves questioning, thinking and judgment, which are all subject to change and interpretation. With knowledge, you just know. Knowing does not question. It does not think; it just knows.

**T-3.III.5.** The Bible tells you to know yourself, or to be certain. 2 Certainty is always of God. p40 3 When you love someone you have perceived him as he is, and this makes it possible for you to know him. 4 Until you first perceive him as he is you cannot know him. 5 While you ask questions about him you are clearly implying that you do not know God. 6 Certainty does not require action. 7 When you say you are acting on the basis of knowledge, you are really confusing knowledge with perception **since knowledge is certainty and does not require action**. 8 Knowledge provides the strength for creative thinking, but not for right doing. 9 Perception, miracles and doing are closely related. 10 Knowledge is the result of revelation and induces only thought. 11 Even in **perception's** most spiritualized form perception involves the body. 12 Knowledge comes from the altar within and is timeless because **knowledge** is certain. 13 To perceive the truth is not the same as to know **the truth**.

**Note # 19:** Perception always implies the belief in separation. It requires both an observer and something to observe. Even when you perceive correctly and conclude that there is only the Oneness and that you are that one, you have arrived at the correct conclusion based on the original belief that there could be something outside of the Oneness that you observed. Knowing requires no action since knowledge just is. Being truth, there is nothing to change and nothing that could be changed. Action is only relevant to the mind that believes change is possible. At the level of the illusionary non-real world of time and

perception, change is believed possible and action induces change. Physical action is not required, but changing your thinking is necessary. Thoughts become things. Mind, not the body, is the seat of all creation or miscreation.

**T-3.III.6.** Right perception is necessary before God can communicate directly to His altars, which **God** established in His Sons. 2 There **God** can communicate His certainty, and His knowledge will bring peace without question. 3 God is not a stranger to His Sons, and His Sons are not strangers to each other. 4 Knowledge preceded both perception and time, and will ultimately replace **perception and time**. 5 That is the real meaning of "Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end," and "Before Abraham was I am." 6 Perception can and must be stabilized, but knowledge *<is>* stable. 7 "Fear God and keep His commandments" becomes "Know God and accept His certainty."

**Note # 20:** To know God we must drop all egoic thinking and follow the guidance to the Holy Spirit. Only the Holy Spirit knows the path that will reawaken our sleeping minds to the truth.

**T-3.III.7.** If you attack error in another, you will hurt yourself. 2 You cannot know your brother when you attack him. 3 Attack is always made upon a stranger. 4 You are making **your brother** a stranger by misperceiving **your brother**, and so you cannot know **your brother**. 5 It is because you have made **your brother** a stranger that you are afraid of **your brother**. 6 Perceive **your brother** correctly so that you can know **your brother**. 7 There are no strangers in God's creation. 8 To create as **God** created you can create only what you know, and therefore accept as yours. 9 God knows His children with perfect certainty. 10 **God** created **His children** by knowing **His children**. 11 **God** recognizes **His children** perfectly. 12 When **His children** do not recognize each other, **His children** do not recognize **God**.

**Note # 21:** As long as we view our brother as a limited ego-body, we will fail to perceive the truth about him. With the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we can look past the physical body and correctly perceive his Christ consciousness, his Big "S" Self. When we do this, we see our own true self and we recognize God. We realize that we are all joined and are the One Self of the shared holographic Mind of God.

#### **IV. Error and the Ego**

**T-3.IV.1.** The abilities you now possess are only shadows of your real strength. 2 All of your present functions are divided and open to question and doubt. 3 This **questioning and doubt of your present functions** is because you are not certain how you will use **your abilities because their functions are divided**, and therefore **you are** incapable of knowledge. p41 4 You are also incapable of knowledge because you can still perceive lovelessly. 5 Perception did not exist until the separation introduced degrees, aspects and intervals. 6 Spirit has no levels, and all conflict arises from the concept of levels. 7 Only the Levels of the Trinity are capable of unity. 8 The levels created by the separation cannot but conflict. 9 This is because **the levels created by the separation** are meaningless to each other.

**Note # 22:** Since we do not recognize what we are, we do not understand our own creative power. Because we come from fear and lack, we limit our own power to create. We attempt

to serve two masters. One is love and the other fear or lovelessness. Believing ourselves to be limited ego-bodies, we cannot help but perceive a world of conflict and competition. Our belief in separation has not only introduced the concept of the false, we also have the concept of “sometimes”. Truth now can vacillate back and forth and both the true and the false become conditional at best. In the world of perception, there are no absolutes. Everything is questionable and changeable. On the non-real level of time, space and perception stability does not exist.

**T-3.IV.2.** Consciousness, the level of perception, was the first split introduced into the mind after the separation, making the mind a perceiver rather than a creator. 2 Consciousness is correctly identified as the domain of the ego. 3 The ego is a wrong-minded attempt to perceive yourself as you wish to be, rather than as you are. 4 Yet you can know yourself only as you are, because that is all you can be sure of. 5 Everything else **except knowing yourself only as you are** <is> open to question.

**Note # 23:** This is an important paragraph (**T-3.IV.2**). This is referencing the splitting of the mind into the “higher mind” which is under the jurisdiction of spirit and the “lower mind” which is in the domain of the ego. The Son’s of God have “fallen” from a creator to a perceiver and have lost their ability to know. This supposed separation, however, is only in the mind of the perceiver, not in the Mind of God. This idea correlates with the definition of the ego, which is defined as a wrong-minded attempt to perceive yourself as you wish to be, rather than as you are. You cannot change what you truly are since God has created you perfect and changeless. You can, however, forget (misperceive) who you are. This misperception leads to levels created by the separation, which are irreconcilable to each other. Level confusion is the result and is a device, which is used by the ego to verify that you are indeed a limited ego-body, not a “Oneness of Everything”. As an ego-body you believe you are separate, fearful, and come from lack. Prior to the separation there were no levels since there was only the knowing of the One Self. Consciousness is the level of perception. Since the ego is the result of a misperception, the ego is a miscreation. The result of a miscreation is not real in God’s mind and is only perceived as real in the mind of the perceiver. This initial miscreation of the split mind is the start of individual, provisional reality. Provisional reality is a world that appears true only to the mind of the one perceiving (dreaming) it. Based on the fact that God did not create the ego, (you did within your dream world of provisional reality), the ego does not exist. The ego was made (miscreated), not created by God and is not a part of the Mind of God. The belief in separation is necessary for perception to exist. Without the belief of separation, there could be nothing outside the perceiver to perceive. There would just be a Oneness of One Self. With the concept of separation, we now have two. We have an observer and something outside itself to observe. We have something to compete with and conflict with. The world of changeable perception was born. Time, which is the measure of change, now becomes relevant. The separation birthed the concepts of perception, change, time and fear. The ego, which is of our mind that claims it does not know what it is, now takes up its residency in the illusionary non-real world of perception.

**T-3.IV.3.** The ego is the questioning aspect of the post-separation self, which was made rather than created. 2 **The ego** is capable of asking questions but not of perceiving meaningful answers, because **meaningful answers** would involve knowledge and cannot be perceived. 3 The mind is therefore confused, because only One-mindedness can be

without confusion. 4 A separated or divided mind <must> be confused. 5 **A separated or divided mind** is necessarily uncertain about what it is. 6 **A separated mind** has to be in conflict because **a divided mind** is out of accord with itself. 7 This makes **a divided mind's** aspects strangers to each other, and this **lack of accord among the separated mind's various aspects** is the essence of the fear-prone condition, in which attack is always possible. 8 You have every reason to feel afraid as you perceive yourself. 9 This is why you cannot escape from fear **of how you perceive yourself**, until you realize that you did not and could not create yourself. 10 You can never make your misperceptions true, and your creation is beyond your own error. 11 That is why you must eventually choose to heal the separation.

**Note # 24:** To correct something, you must go to the source of the error. The source is the mad idea that you can usurp God's Will and somehow are separate from God. Since God created all that is, God is the Cause and you are God's Effect. The effect cannot birth itself. Creation is an extension of itself and thus, cause can only extend what it is. The effect must be just as changeless as its cause. Misperceptions, no matter how hard you choose to believe them, will always be false. Just because you believe the world is flat, does not make it true. You can choose to live your life under the misperception that your world is flat but "reality" will be that the "real" world is round. We can deny our divine birthright but we can never lose it. Our divine inheritance always remains waiting patiently within us for the moment when we will cease playing the game of separation. This game will stop when we cease valuing our self-made ego that claims we could not know that we are Son's of God.

**T-3.IV.4.** Right-mindedness is not to be confused with the knowing mind, because **right-mindedness** is applicable only to right perception. 2 You can be right-minded or wrong-minded, and even this is subject to degrees. **The possibility of various degrees, or outcomes, demonstrates that this clearly requires perception** and that knowledge is not involved. 3 The term "right-mindedness" is properly used as the correction for "wrong-mindedness," and applies to the state of mind that induces accurate perception. 4 **Right-mindedness** is miracle-minded because **right-mindedness induces accurate perception, which** heals misperception, and this **change in perception** is indeed a miracle in view of how you perceive yourself.

**Note # 25:** The miracle is a change in the viewer perception. Knowledge is beyond the realm of perception since it is certain. Knowledge is not found at the non-real, illusionary level of separation, time and space.

**T-3.IV.5.** Perception always involves some misuse of mind, because **perception** brings the mind into areas of uncertainty. 2 The mind is very active p42. 3 When **the mind** chooses to be separated, **the mind** chooses to perceive. 4 Until the **mind chooses to perceive, the mind** wills only to know. 5 Afterwards **the mind chooses to perceive, the mind** can only choose ambiguously, and the only way out of ambiguity is clear perception. 6 The mind returns to **the mind's** proper function only when **the mind** wills to know. 7 **When the mind's will to know**, this places **the mind** in the service of spirit, where perception is changed. 8 The mind chooses to divide itself when **the mind** chooses to make its own levels. **(Perception is a separate level from Oneness of God, which would be the state of mind called Heaven)** 9 But it (**the perceiving mind**) could not entirely

separate itself from spirit, because **the mind** is from spirit that **the mind** derives **the mind's** whole power to make or create **from spirit**. 10 Even in miscreation the mind is affirming its Source (**Spirit**) or **the mind** would merely cease to be. 11 This **ceasing of the mind to be** is impossible, because the mind belongs to spirit which God created and which is therefore eternal.

**Note # 26:** Even in our mind's most delusional state, we still remain connected to our Source Energy or God. Our Christ-consciousness remembers who we are. The Holy Spirit maintains its eternal vigilance within our split mind patiently awaiting our call for Its guidance that cannot fail. Our mind or spirit always remains connected to its Cause. Cause and effect are inseparable. You cannot have one without the other.

**T-3.IV.6.** The ability to perceive made the body possible, because you must perceive *<something>* and *<with>* something. 2 That is why perception involves an exchange or translation, which knowledge does not need. 3 The interpretative function of perception, a distorted form of creation, then permits you to interpret the body as yourself in an attempt to escape from the conflict you have induced (**the separation**). 4 Spirit, which knows, could not be reconciled with this loss of power, because **spirit** is incapable of darkness. 5 This makes spirit almost inaccessible to the **split-minded** and entirely inaccessible to the body. 6 Thereafter, spirit is perceived as a threat, because light abolishes darkness merely by showing you **darkness** is not there. 7 Truth will always overcome error in this way. 8 This **overcoming of error by truth** cannot be an active process of correction because, as I have already emphasized, knowledge does not do anything. 9 **Knowledge** can be perceived as an attacker, but **knowledge** cannot attack. 10 What you perceive as **knowledge's** attack is your own vague recognition that knowledge can always be remembered, **since knowledge has** never been destroyed.

**Note # 27:** Within our split mind our Christ consciousness or Big "S" Self holds the remembrance of our true beingness. By seeking the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we reawake the Christ within.

**T-3.IV.7.** God and His creations remain in surety and therefore know that no miscreation exists. 2 Truth cannot deal with errors that you want. 3 I was a man who remembered spirit and **spirit's** knowledge. 4 As a man I did not attempt to counteract error with knowledge, but to correct error from the bottom up. 5 I demonstrated both the powerlessness of the body and the power of the mind. 6 By uniting my will with that of my Creator, I naturally remembered spirit and **spirit's** real purpose. 7 I cannot unite your will with God's **Will** for you, but I can erase all misperceptions from your mind if you will bring **your mind** under my guidance. 8 Only your misperceptions stand in your way **of my guidance**. 9 Without **your misperceptions** your choice is certain. 10 Sane perception induces sane choosing. 11 I cannot choose for you, but I can help you make your own right choice. p43 12 "Many are called but few are chosen" should be, "All are called but few choose to listen." 13 Therefore, they do not choose right. 14 The "chosen ones" are merely those who choose right sooner. 15 Right minds can do this now, and **right minds** will find rest unto their souls. 16 God knows you only in peace, and this *<is>* your reality.

**Note # 28:** Your true reality was, is, and always will be, as God created you – a Oneness, perfect, whole and complete. You remain sinless and guiltless as your Father created you.

You can choose to misperceive who you are, but you cannot change what God created. In the misperception that we call the dream of separation, we create our personal dream world of provisional reality. We ultimately will choose to freely dissolve this world of provisional reality since “God’s Will is not mocked“. God wills you to be an extension of God, Himself. Thus, you must remain an eternal Oneness of Everything. Ultimately there is only one choice and only one true option available to your decision-making mind. The only option that rests in truth is that you must assume your rightful place within the One Mind of God. The choice of separation is not a choice since it is a choice for an illusional fantasy, which is a choice for nothingness.

## **V. Beyond Perception**

**T-3.V.1.** I have said that the abilities you possess are only shadows of your real strength, and that perception, which is inherently judgmental, was introduced only after the separation. 2 No one has been sure of anything since **perception was exchanged for knowledge due to the separation.** 3 I have also made it clear that the resurrection was the means for the return to knowledge, which was accomplished by the union of my will with the Father’s **Will.** 4 We can now establish a distinction that will clarify some of our subsequent statements.

**Note # 29:** The resurrection, which is the proof that the body is not you, is the foundation for the return to truth. Jesus demonstrated through the resurrection that mind or spirit is unlimited and the egoic body has nothing of value.

**T-3.V.2.** Since the separation, the words "create" and "make" have become confused. 2 When you make something, you do so out of a specific sense of lack or need. 3 Anything made for a specific purpose has no true generalizability. 4 When you make something to fill a perceived lack, you are tacitly implying that you believe in separation. 5 The ego has invented many ingenious thought systems for this purpose **of reinforcing your belief in lack or need.** 6 None **of the ego’s thought systems are** creative. 7 Inventiveness is wasted effort even in **inventiveness’s** most ingenious form. 8 The highly specific nature of invention is not worthy of the abstract creativity of God’s creations.

**Note # 30:** The specific nature of invention or “making” assisted the ego in the ego’s desire to convince your split mind that you are separate and not a Oneness with your brother and the Mind of God.. If you believe that you are whole (a Oneness), what could you lack? Anything that is for a specific purpose rather than applicable to everything implies that there is something “out there” that you are missing and, therefore, you are not perfect, whole and complete. You believe that you are separate. To the ego, this confirms that you are something other than God’s Son. Creation comes from the mindset that you have everything, and, therefore, you can and do give everything. When someone creates, there is no sacrifice or diminishment. By sharing, both giver and receiver are strengthened. The creator shares its wholeness and perfection rather than makes something that it perceives it lacks. Creation is inclusion. Making is exclusion.

**T-3.V.3.** Knowing, as we have already observed, does not lead to doing. 2 The confusion between your real creation and what you have made of yourself is so profound that **due to the confusion of what your real creation is (a spirit, the Son of God) versus**

**what you have made or believe yourself to be (an ego body)**, it has become literally impossible for you to know anything. 3 Knowledge is always stable, and it is quite evident that you are not **stable**. 4 Nevertheless, you are perfectly stable as God created you. 5 In this sense, when your behavior is unstable, you are disagreeing with God's idea of your creation. 6 You can **disagree with God's idea of your creation** if you choose, but you would hardly want to **disagree with God's idea of your creation** if you were in your right mind.

**Note # 31:** God see us as perfect, whole and complete. What part in your own perfection do you wish to reject? Only an insane mind would choose limitation and lack over everything.

**T-3.V.4.** The fundamental question you continually ask yourself cannot properly be directed to yourself at all. 2 You keep asking what it is you are. 3 **The question "What it is you are?"** implies that the answer is not only one you know, but **the answer** is also one that is up to you to supply. 4 Yet you cannot perceive yourself correctly. p44 5 You have no image to be perceived. 6 The word "image" is always perception-related, and not a part of knowledge. 7 Images are symbolic and stand for something else. 8 The idea of "changing your image" recognizes the power of perception, but **the idea of "changing your image" also implies** that there is nothing stable to know **since perception is open to interpretation**.

**Note # 32:** The insane mind does not know the truth. Yet your egoic mind would claim not only that you know the truth but the ego, also, claims that you are the arbitrator of truth. The insane believe that by their own choice, they create what will be the truth and when it will be truth. To the insane, truth is unstable and constantly changing. In our egoic dream of separation, individual perception is the arbitrator of truth. Knowledge knows that truth is eternal and changeless.

**T-3.V.5.** Knowing is not open to interpretation. 2 You may try to "interpret" meaning, but **to "interpret" meaning** is always open to error because **to "interpret" meaning** refers to the *<perception>* of meaning. 3 Such incongruities **between knowledge and perception of meanings** are the result of attempts to regard yourself as separated and unseparated at the same time. 4 It is impossible to make so fundamental a confusion (**regard yourself as separated and not separated at the same time**) without increasing your overall confusion still further. 5 Your mind may have become very ingenious, but as always happens when method and content are separated, **the ingenious mind** is utilized in a futile attempt to escape from an inescapable impasse. 6 Ingenuity is totally divorced from knowledge, because knowledge does not require ingenuity. 7 Ingenious thinking is *<not>* the truth that shall set you free, but you are free of the need to engage in **ingenious thinking** when you are willing to let **ingenious thinking** go.

**Note # 33:** In this world of perception and time, we need to understand that due to our loss of knowledge, we cannot perceive anything correctly. The way around this impasse is to seek the guidance of someone who knows the truth. Only the Holy Spirit knows the truth about what you are and is also aware of our current state of illusion or insanity. We need only ask the help of our Inner Guide, the Holy Spirit, for His correct perception. The

utilization of the Holy Spirit's thought system is the pathway to the eventual return of the Sonship to knowledge.

**T-3.V.6.** Prayer is a way of asking for something. 2 **Prayer** is the medium of miracles. 3 But the only meaningful prayer is for forgiveness, because those who have been forgiven have everything. 4 Once forgiveness has been accepted, prayer in the usual sense becomes utterly meaningless **since you realize you already have everything.** 5 The prayer for forgiveness is nothing more than a request that you may be able to recognize what you already have. 6 In electing perception instead of knowledge, you placed yourself in a position where you could resemble your Father only by perceiving miraculously. 7 You have lost the knowledge that you yourself are a miracle of God. 8 Creation is your Source and your only real function.

**Note # 34:** A "correct" prayer would be asking to remember who you really are. You are spirit, not the ego-body that you incorrectly perceive yourself to be. As God's Son, you are creation and your function is to extend creation. In the prayer of forgiveness, we are giving ourselves permission to remember who we are. We, not God, need to forgive ourselves for our own stupidity. The ego would have you cling to your illusion of separateness so that you can claim to be right. The Holy Spirit would merely tell you to choose again. The Holy Spirit knows that an illusion is not real and where there is no harm, there can be no foul. The Holy Spirit asks you to not judge yourself. Instead It asks that you choose again. This time choose to be happy instead of the egoic decision to sacrifice your happiness so that you can pretend to be "right".

**T-3.V.7.** The statement "God created man in his own image and likeness" needs reinterpretation. 2 "Image" can be understood as "thought," and "likeness" as "of a like quality." 3 God did create spirit in His Own Thought and of a quality like to His Own. 4 There *<is>* nothing else. 5 Perception, on the other hand, is impossible without a belief in "more" and "less." 6 At every level **perception** involves selectivity. 7 Perception is a continual process of accepting and rejecting, organizing and reorganizing, shifting and changing. 8 Evaluation is an essential part of perception, because judgments are necessary in order to select.

**Note # 35:** Spirit is everything. There is no lack in spirit. Perception requires that there is something outside "the everything", which contradicts the definition of "everything." Lack is impossible in a Oneness of "All That Is". Perception attempts to divide the inseparable and then judge what it claims has been removed from the whole. Spirit is holographic. Each inseparable part contains the whole because it is the whole. The whole is in each part and each part is in the whole. Spirit is not form but the Thought of God.

**T-3.V.8.** What happens to perceptions if there are no judgments and nothing but perfect equality? 2 Perception becomes impossible p45. 3 Truth can only be known. 4 All of **truth** is equally true, and knowing any part of **truth** is to know all of **truth** 5 Only perception involves partial awareness. 6 Knowledge transcends the laws governing perception, because partial knowledge is impossible. 7 **Knowledge** is all one and has no separate parts. 8 You who are really one with **knowledge** need but know yourself and your knowledge is complete. 9 To know God's miracle is to know **God**

**Note # 36:** Judgment is required for perception. If you judge not, you look past form to content. Content is the truth that only love is real. The ego is a big judging machine. When you quiet the voice of the judgmental ego, you will finally be able to hear the Voice for the remembrance of God and the truth of what you are. When you set aside all judgment, you will accept the Atonement for yourself. The Father will return the Sonship to knowledge and perception will be no more. We will know that we all are unlimited spirit, part of the One Self that is the Mind of God. The Mind of God extends. It does not separate.

In this paragraph, it clearly states the knowledge is holographic in nature. Partial knowledge is impossible since knowledge is all one and has no separate parts.

**T-3.V.9.** Forgiveness is the healing of the perception of separation. 2 Correct perception of your brother is necessary, because **without correct perception of your brother**, minds have chosen to see themselves as separate. 3 Spirit knows God completely. 4 **Spirit's complete knowledge of God is spirit's** miraculous power. 5 The fact that each one has this power **to know God** completely is a condition entirely alien to the world's thinking. 6 The world believes that if anyone has everything, there is nothing left. 7 But God's miracles are as total as His Thoughts because **God's miracles <are> God's** Thoughts.

**Note # 37:** We need to abandon the current paradigm of dualistic thinking. We currently operate under the belief that a whole can be divided into smaller parts and the each part is less than the whole. This leads us into egoic thinking that claims each part is a separate, limited ego-body in competition with other separate, limited ego-bodies. Struggle and conflict result with each party trying to get what they need from a world of fear and lack. Yet, if we shift to a new holographic paradigm, we will have a better conceptual understanding of how ACIM views the universe of the Mind of God. In a true hologram, you can cut the whole into smaller and smaller parts. Yet, whenever you shine a laser beam through any separate piece of the hologram, no matter how small, the entire holographic projection will reappear. Any and all parts have all the information needed to recreate the whole. In the Holographic Model of the Mind of God, each part contains the whole and the whole contains each part. When we realize that we are all created from the same stuff called spirit, we understand that although form may appear to vary, the content, which is spirit is all the same. There is equality in the parts and connectiveness in all parts. There is no separation since all are interconnected on the holographic web of life, that we call the Mind of God. When any part of the hologram shares or extends itself, all parts share and extend. Because of the inter-connectiveness within a hologram, to give is to receive. In the holographic Oneness of Spirit, the Father, the Sonship, the Holy Spirit, your brother and sister and you are all One Self.

**T-3.V.10.** As long as perception lasts prayer has a place. 2 Since perception rests on lack, those who perceive have not totally accepted the Atonement and given themselves over to truth **since they still believe in lack**. 3 Perception is based on a separated state, so that anyone who perceives at all needs healing. 4 Communion, not prayer, is the natural state of those who know. 5 God and **God's** miracle are inseparable. 6 How beautiful indeed are the Thoughts of God who live in **God's** light! 7 Your worth is beyond perception because **your worth** is beyond doubt. 8 Do not perceive yourself in different lights. 9 Know yourself in the One Light **of God** where the miracle that is you is perfectly clear.

**Note # 38:** You are the Thoughts of God. You need but to know who you really are. Realize your oneness. Your worthiness is undeniable for you are the One Light of God's Thoughts. Do not perceive yourself in the "light" of littleness and limitation. This egoic "light" is not light but rather a cloak for darkness. Any perception of yourself as different from the Light that is God's Thoughts, is symbolic of your belief in the separation. Do not perceive yourself to be different, separate and not whole.

## **VI. Judgment and the Authority Problem**

T-3.VI.1. We have already discussed the Last Judgment, but in insufficient detail. 2 After the Last Judgment there will be no more **judgment**. 3 Judgment is symbolic because beyond perception there is no judgment. 4 When the Bible says "Judge not that ye be not judged," **the Bible** means that if you judge the reality of others you will be unable to avoid judging your own **reality**.

**Note # 39:** The ego judges. Knowledge is truth, which is beyond perception. In a Oneness of everything to judge or condemn another is to judge and condemn yourself.

T-3.VI.2. The choice to judge rather than to know is the cause of the loss of peace. 2 Judgment is the process on which perception but not knowledge rests. 3 I have discussed this before in terms of the selectivity of perception, pointing out that evaluation is **perception's** obvious prerequisite. 4 Judgment always involves rejection. 5 **Judgment** never emphasizes only the positive aspects of what is judged, whether in you or in others. p46 6 What has been perceived and rejected, or judged and found wanting, remains in your mind because **what has been perceived and rejected, or judged and found wanting**, has been perceived. 7 One of the illusions from which you suffer is the belief that what you judged against has no effect. 8 **What you judged against has no effect** cannot be true unless you also believe that what you judged against does not exist. 9 You evidently do not believe **what you judged against does not exist**, or you would not have judged against it. 10 In the end it does not matter whether your judgment is right or wrong. 11 Either way, **whether your judgment is right or wrong**, you are placing your belief in the unreal. 12 This **placing of your belief in the unreal** cannot be avoided in any type of judgment, **because placing your belief in the unreal** implies the belief that reality is yours to select *<from.>*

**Note # 40:** Truth is truth. Reality is reality. Our belief in what we choose to perceive as our own personal "provisional reality" has no impact on truth. The ego claims you are the arbitrator of truth. The ego is wrong. God, not you, determined what is the changelessness Truth. Reality and Truth are permanently fixed in the Mind of God. When you perceive something to be apart from you, you confirm your belief that the separation is real. By seeing another as something other than unlimited spirit, you deny both parties their divine inheritance.

T-3.VI.3. You have no idea of the tremendous release and deep peace that comes from meeting yourself and your brothers totally without judgment. 2 When you recognize what you are and what your brothers are, you will realize that judging **your brothers** in any way is without meaning. 3 In fact, **your brothers'** meaning is lost to you precisely *<because>* you are judging **your brothers**. 4 All uncertainty comes from the belief that you are under the coercion of judgment. 5 You do not need judgment to organize your life,

and you certainly do not need **judgment** to organize yourself. 6 In the presence of knowledge all judgment is automatically suspended, and this **automatic suspension of judgment** is the process that enables recognition to replace perception.

**Note # 41:** When you suspend all judgments, you can be in the <now> of the moment. Judgment robs you of your peace and happiness. Drop egoic judgment and all that remains is love. What was perceived as fearful and separate is now seen as a cry for joining and love. When we drop the judgments of the egoic split mind, all that we hear is the Voice of the Holy Spirit and right-mindedness.

**T-3.VI.4.** You are very fearful of everything you have perceived but have refused to accept **everything you have perceived**. 2 You believe that, because you have refused to accept **everything you have perceived**, you have lost control over **everything you have perceived**. 3 This is why you see **everything you have perceived** in nightmares, or in pleasant disguises in what seem to be your happier dreams. 4 Nothing that you have refused to accept can be brought into awareness. 5 **The perception that you have refused to accept** is not dangerous in itself, but you have made **the perceptions that you have refused to accept** seem dangerous to you.

**Note # 42:** Until we are willing to accept ownership for our own perception, we will never be in a position to dissolve them. As long as we claim that we are causeless over our own perception, we will remain in victim consciousness. If we do not realize that we are the dreamer, we will never realize that by awakening our mind to the truth, the dream will disappear. The dream of separation is not the problem. The problem is that we have forgotten that we are the dreamer. We have allowed love to be replaced by fear. As the Bible states, “That a deep sleep fell upon Adam.” yet it never states that Adam awoke. We are that “Adam”. We have forgotten that we chose to experience what it would be like to pretend that we had a body and now believe that we are that body. We, the dreamer, have identified ourselves as a character in the dream rather than realizing that we are the dreamer. In our personal world of provisional reality, we are the writer, director, and star in our own movie of make believe that we call our private, bodily, life experience. Only when you claim ownership of the script, do you have the power to change it. Your thoughts make your perception and your perception is your world.

**T-3.VI.5.** When you feel tired, **your tiredness** is because you have judged yourself as capable of being tired. 2 When you laugh at someone, **you laugh at someone** because you have judged him as unworthy. 3 When you laugh at yourself you must laugh at others, if only because you cannot tolerate the idea of being more unworthy than they are. 4 All this makes you feel tired because it is essentially disheartening. 5 You are not really capable of being tired, but you are very capable of wearying yourself. 6 The strain of constant judgment is virtually intolerable. 7 It is curious that **the ability of judgment, which is** so debilitating would be so deeply cherished. 8 Yet if you wish to be the author of reality, you will insist on holding on to judgment. 9 You will also regard judgment with fear, believing that **judgment** will someday be used against you. p47 10 This belief **that judgment will someday be used against you** can exist only to the extent that you believe in the efficacy of judgment as a weapon of defense for your own authority.

**Note # 43:** Judgment blocks and restricts the flow of source energy or connectiveness to our mind. This sense of disconnectedness with our Big “S” Self is perceived as tiring because you have chosen to be out of alignment with your Source, which is that you truly are. Your egoic thinking is denying your true nature as unlimited spirit.

**T-3.VI.6.** God offers only mercy. 2 Your words should reflect only mercy, because that is what you have received **from God**, and **only mercy** is what you should give. 3 Justice is a temporary expedient, or an attempt to teach you the meaning of mercy. 4 **Justice** is judgmental only because you are capable of injustice.

**Note # 44:** Because we perceive ourselves as unworthy, fearful sinners, we seek and demand retribution. God’s mercy or judgment is only that His Child is sinless and guiltless because that is how God created you. You are an extension of God, Herself. God knows the truth that you can only be perfect, whole and complete.

**T-3.VI.7.** I have spoken of different symptoms, and at that level **where judgment exists**, there is almost endless variation of **different symptoms**. 2 There is, however, only one cause for all of **the different symptoms**, the authority problem. 3 **The authority problem** <is> "the root of all evil." 4 Every symptom the ego makes involves a contradiction in terms, because the mind is split between the ego and the Holy Spirit, so that whatever the ego makes is incomplete and contradictory. 5 This untenable position **that whatever the ego makes is incomplete and contradictory** is the result of the authority problem which, because **the mind** accepts the one inconceivable thought as its premise, can produce only ideas that are inconceivable.

**Note # 45:** The “authority problem” is a question of who is the author of reality? Is God the creator or are you? If God is the creator, reality is stable and changeless and you will always be as God created you - perfect, whole and complete. If you are the creator of yourself, you have somehow usurped the authority of God and are separate and have something to fear. The authority problem now centers on what you are. Are you an ego-body? Or, are you Spirit? You cannot be both. If one is true, the other must be an illusion or dream. Due to your false belief that you are separate, your split-mind must decide which view point it should follow. Your higher mind and the Holy Spirit represent right-mindedness. This is your Big “S” Self. Wrong-mindedness is represented by the ego and its ally, the body. This is your little “s” self. The core belief of wrong-mindedness is that you are separate and come from lack and limitation. As such, you are no longer perceived as God created you. The ego tells you that you are not the Son of God but rather are something other than as God created you. The core belief of right-mindedness is that you are created by God in His Image. As such, you will always be a Oneness with God for you are an extension of God. You can deny, or forget, your birthright, but your inheritance will always be there for you to reclaim whenever you choose to remember. God made you, perfect, whole and complete, and this and only this is what you are.

**T-3.VI.8.** The issue of authority is really a question of authorship. 2 When you have an authority problem, it is always because you believe you are the author of yourself and project your delusion onto others. 3 You then perceive the situation as one in which others are literally fighting you for your authorship. 4 This is the fundamental error of all those

who believe they have usurped the power of God. 5 This belief **that they have usurped the power of God** is very frightening to them, but hardly troubles God. 6 **God** is, however, eager to undo **this belief that you have usurped the power of God**, not to punish His children, but only because **God** knows that **this belief that you have usurped the power of God** makes **His children** unhappy. 7 God's creations are given their true Authorship, but you prefer to be anonymous when you choose to separate yourself from your Author, which **is God**. 8 Being uncertain of your true Authorship, you believe that your creation was anonymous. 9 This leaves you in a position where it sounds meaningful to believe that you created yourself. 10 The dispute over authorship has left such uncertainty in your mind that **your mind** may even doubt whether you really exist at all.

**Note # 46:** There is only one will and that is the shared Will of God. God wills that His Child be happy and know Itself. When we deny our Source, we also claim that we are unlike our Source. Yet, because we have been given God's power of creation, we are a co-creator with God. Even in the deluded state of split-mindedness, our creative power is never lost. Coming from lack, we make or miscreate through the use of projection. Although it is our thoughts that make, we disown our own authorship over our thoughts. We claim something outside ourselves created them. We also claim that what we perceive to be outside ourselves was self-created and that we are powerless to alter our circumstances. When we believe we lack, we send these thoughts of lack outward into the world of perception. When these same thought patterns return to the sender, the sender's sense then confirms that something that we claim we have no control over exists outside and separate from the mind of the sender, who is also the perceiver. Projection allows the ego to claim that perhaps we, like our outside world, was self-created.

God's Thought is the Cause and we are God's Effect. Only in the insane logic of the egoic thought system can an effect be its own cause.

**T-3.VI.9.** Only those who give over all desire to reject can know that their own rejection is impossible. 2 You have not usurped the power of God, but you *<have>* lost **the power of God**. 3 Fortunately, to lose something does not mean that it has gone. 4 **To lose something** merely means that you do not remember where **what you lost** is. 5 **The existence of what you have lost** does not depend on your ability to identify **what you have lost**, or even to place **where what you have lost is**. 6 It is possible to look on reality without judgment and merely know that **what you have lost** is there. p48

**Note # 47:** It is impossible to lose our divine inheritance for this is not God's Will. We can deny or forgot that we have, but we cannot change what God has given us. Denial does not change the truth. We merely have to believe that we have it and it will be made available to us. The mind's beliefs and thoughts are that powerful. Our divine inheritance is that God's creations remain as God created them. God's creations are eternally pure, perfect and innocent. Being spirit, these thoughts of God are invulnerable to change.

**T-3.VI.10.** Peace is a natural heritage of spirit. 2 Everyone is free to refuse to accept his inheritance, but he is not free to establish what his inheritance is. 3 The problem everyone must decide is the fundamental question of authorship. 4 All fear comes ultimately, and sometimes by way of very devious routes, from the denial of Authorship. 5 The offense of **the denial of Authorship** is never to God, but only to those who deny **God's Authorship**. 6 To deny **God's Authorship** is to deny yourself the reason for your peace. **Your peace is**

**the natural heritage of spirit, which is your birthright as God's Son. When you deny God's Authorship** you see yourself only in segments. 7 This strange perception **that you, not God, created yourself** <is> the authority problem.

**Note # 48:** The denial of your birthright as a child of God, results in your belief that you are separate. This belief in separation leaves the mind split and gives rise to the illusory world of the ego. In this dream world of the ego, you are a victim of limitation and fear. You are no longer perfect, whole and complete in this dream world of egoic making. By your denial of your divine birthright, you deny your inherited ability to co-create with your Father. Belief in lack results in miscreation because you believe yourself to be separate from the Oneness that is the Source of your creative power.

**T-3.VI.11.** There is no one who does not feel that he is imprisoned in some way. 2 If this **imprisonment** is the result of his own free will he must regard his will as not free, or the circular reasoning in this position would be quite apparent. 3 Free will must lead to freedom. 4 Judgment always imprisons because **judgment** separates segments of reality by the unstable scales of desire. 5 Wishes are not facts. 6 To wish is to imply that willing is not sufficient. 7 Yet no one in his right mind believes that what is wished is as real as what is willed. 8 Instead of "Seek ye first the Kingdom of Heaven" say, "<Will> ye first the Kingdom of Heaven," and you have said, "I know what I am and I accept my own inheritance."

**Note # 49:** Claim the truth of your divine birthright and it is yours. Claim that you are limited and you will imprison yourself. Only you, not God, judge yourself guilty and unworthy. Only you hold the keys to your own prison cell. When will you choose for only truth and unlock the door?

## **VII. Creating versus the Self-Image**

**T-3.VII.1.** Every system of thought must have a starting point. 2 A starting point begins with a making or a creating, a difference we have already discussed. 3 Their resemblance lies **between a making or a creating**, in their power as foundations. 4 Their difference **in the power of the foundation of a making (egoic thought system) or a creating (Holy Spirit's) thought system** lies in what rests upon them. 5 Both **the power of a making or a creating** are cornerstones for systems of belief by which one lives. 6 It is a mistake to believe that a thought system based on lies is weak. 7 Nothing made by a child of God is without power. 8 It is essential to realize **that nothing made by a child of God is without power**, because otherwise you will be unable to escape from the prison you have made.

**Note # 50:** Due to free will, your mind has the creative power to manifest whatever you will. This is true even if you falsely believe you are a powerless victim trapped in an ego-body. Making is based on limitation and, therefore, lacks permanency and only exists in the dream state of your mind. This projected dream world is neither real nor part of the Mind of God. Yet if one believes the dream to be real, the dream has the power to entrap the dreamer within the dream itself. Creation comes from oneness and is unalterable. Coming from truth and love, creation frees, includes and joins. The two thought systems are both powerful in their creative abilities. The ego's thought system rests on the false belief in fear, separation, lack and limitation. Due to its false beliefs, the egoic split mind lacks the

creative power of love, yet, it still has the power to miscreate. Although the egoic thought system is based on the false, it can make a personal, provisional reality that evolves into an entire planet that appears to be ruled by fear. The creative power of the mind is a powerful force even when it rests on lies and false beliefs. This creative power is even more powerful when its foundation rests upon the truth. The thought system of the Holy Spirit creates, rather than makes since it is based on love. Creation, being real and part of the Mind of God, is more powerful than making. When the false is brought into the light of truth, the false fades away and only love remains.

**T-3.VII.2.** You cannot resolve the authority problem by depreciating the power of your mind. 2 To do so (**depreciating the power of your mind**), is to deceive yourself, and this will hurt you because you really understand the strength of the mind. 3 You also realize that you cannot weaken **the power of your mind**, any more than you can weaken God. 4 The "devil" is a frightening concept because **the "devil"** seems to be extremely powerful and extremely active. 5 **The "devil"** is perceived as a force in combat with God, battling **God** for possession of **God's** creations. 6 The devil deceives by lies, and builds kingdoms in which everything is in direct opposition to God. p49 7 Yet **the "devil"** attracts men rather than repels **men**, and **men** are willing to "sell" **the "devil"** their souls in return for gifts of no real worth. 8 This makes absolutely no sense.

**Note # 51:** The mind's belief in separation is the "Devil". To the split minded, separation is very real and fearful. Our egoic thought system represents the "devil". It is based on the belief in the false, which opposes the Will of God. The false is not real and has no real intrinsic value, yet, the illusions of the false is what we seem to prize.

**T-3.VII.3.** We have discussed the fall or separation before, but **the fall or separation's meaning** must be clearly understood. 2 The separation is a system of thought real enough in time, though not in eternity. 3 All beliefs are real to the believer. 4 The fruit of only one tree was "forbidden" in the symbolic garden. 5 But God could not have forbidden **the fruit**, or **the fruit** could not have *<been>* eaten. 6 If God knows His children, and I assure you that **God** does, would **God** have put them in a position where their own destruction was possible? 7 The "forbidden tree" was named the "tree of knowledge." 8 Yet God created knowledge and gave knowledge freely to His creations. 9 The symbolism here has been given many interpretations, but you may be sure that any interpretation that sees either God or His creations as capable of destroying Their Own purpose is in error.

**Note # 52:** On the level of the world of perception, time and space, there are two thought systems available from which to choose. The egoic thought system made this false dream of separation appear real. The thought system of the Holy Spirit will remove the false and leave only what is created from love. The false cannot destroy the truth. The Atonement principle insures that "Adam" will wake up. It is only our denial of our divine birthright that keeps us from our remembrance of the truth that we part of the One Self.

**T-3.VII.4.** Eating of the fruit of the tree of knowledge is a symbolic expression for usurping the ability for self-creating. 2 **The ability for self-creating** is the only sense in which God and His creations are not co-creators. 3 The belief that **God's creations** are **self-created** is implicit in the "self-concept," or the tendency of the self to make an image of itself. 4 Images are perceived, not known. 5 Knowledge cannot deceive, but perception

can. 6 You can perceive yourself as self-creating, but you cannot do more than believe it. 7 You cannot make **self-creating** true. 8 And, as I said before, when you finally perceive correctly you can only be glad that you cannot **self-create**. 9 Until then, however, the belief that you can **self-create** is the foundation stone in your thought system, and all your defenses are used to attack ideas that might bring **the fallacy that you can self-create** to light. 10 You still believe you are an image of your own making. 11 Your mind is split with the Holy Spirit on this point, and there is no resolution while you believe **in the fallacy that you can self-create which** is the one thing **which is** literally inconceivable. 12 **Because your mind is split with the Holy Spirit on this point**, that is why you cannot create and are filled with fear about what you make.

**Note # 53:** God or Source Energy is the First Cause. This “Force” always was and always will be. This “Force” is everywhere and in everything. This “Force” cannot be lost or destroyed. This “Force” is constantly moving in, out and through form. Theologians call this “Force” God. Scientists currently choose to call this “Force” energy. Both define it the same way. Call it whatever makes you feel most comfortable. ACIM calls this universal force, God. The only difference from God and everything else is that this “God Force” has no cause. This is why we describe It as always was and always will be. As such, this God Force is “self-created.” Everything else that follows arose from this Causeless Force, that ACIM calls God. This God Force is the Primary Source or First Cause for all that follows after It. The Law of Creation states that like begets like. This is extension and thus, we possess all the attributes of our Original Source or Creator except that we are not causeless. God is Cause and we are God’s Effect. Other than that there is no difference between this God Force and us.

The ego claims that you are self-created. This egoic claim for self-creation means you can be something other than God. If God is everything, if you believe that you are different from God, than you must be less than God. Thus, while God is perfect, whole and complete, the ego would tell you that you are not perfect, not whole and very incomplete. The ego’s belief that you are self-created is the root cause of the belief in the separation and lack. From this belief that we could be separate from our Source, the entire egoic thought system arose. Separation, sin, guilt and fear are the logical outcomes of this impossible egoic belief that you gave birth to yourself. We are not self-created and we are not causeless. Being God’s thoughts, we trace our origin or Source back to the Mind of our Father.

**T-3.VII.5.** The mind can make the belief in separation very real and very fearful, and this belief **in separation** *<is>* the “devil.” 2 **The belief in separation, the “devil”**, is powerful, active, destructive and clearly in opposition to God, because **the belief in separation** literally denies **God’s** Fatherhood. 3 Look at your life and see what the devil has made. 4 But realize that this making will surely dissolve in the light of truth, because its foundation, **the belief in separation**, is a lie. 5 Your creation by God is the only Foundation that cannot be shaken, because the light is in it (**the truth of your creation by God**). p50 6 Your starting point is truth, and you must return to your Beginning (**Truth**). 7 Much has been seen since then, but nothing has really happened. 8 Your Self is still in peace, even though your mind is in conflict. 9 You have not yet gone back far enough, and that is why you become so fearful. 10 As you approach the Beginning, you feel the fear of the destruction of your **egoic** thought system upon you as if **the destruction of your**

**thought system** were the fear of death. 11 There is no death, but there *<is>* a belief in death.

**Note # 54:** Since our foundation rest in truth, which is real, we must return to truth. In this regard, our journey is different than what we would call the normal evolutionary cycle. Rather than evolve beyond our parent's state of being, we need to return to our "primitive" origins. We need to go back to our Source and return to the truth that we are a Child of God.

**T-3.VII.6.** The branch that bears no fruit will be cut off and will wither away. 2 Be glad! 3 The light will shine from the true Foundation of life, and your own thought system will stand corrected. 4 **Your own egoic thought system** cannot stand otherwise. 5 You who fear salvation are choosing death. 6 Life and death, light and darkness, knowledge and perception, are irreconcilable. 7 **To believe that Life and death, light and darkness, knowledge and perception** can be reconciled is to believe that God and His Son can *<not>* **be reconciled**. 8 Only the oneness of knowledge is free of conflict. 9 Your Kingdom is not of this world because **the Kingdom** was given you from beyond this world. 10 Only in this world (**your ego world of misperception**) is the idea of an authority problem meaningful. 11 The world is not left by death but by truth, and truth can be known by all those for whom the Kingdom was created, and for whom **the Kingdom** waits. p51

**Note # 55:** Reject the thought system of the ego. It is based on the false beliefs of self-creation, separation, limitation, lack and fear. Instead, embrace the thought system of the Holy Spirit that represents truth and love. Love is life. Nothing truly living can survive on the thought system of the ego. The false cannot support life for the false is an illusion of nothing. The loving flow of Source Energy is what gives life. This is your divine birthright and inheritance. Follow the thought system of the Holy Spirit and reawaken to the truth. By accepting the Atonement for yourself, your path to the return to the knowledge that resides in the Kingdom of Heaven is assured.